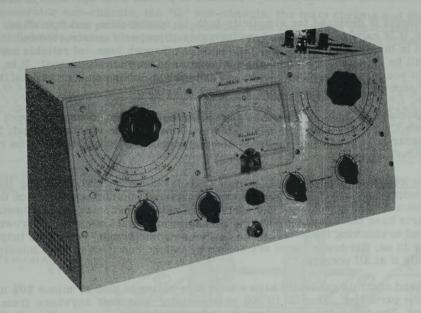




HEATHKIT MODEL QM-1 Q-METER



SPECIFICATIONS

Power Requirements
Tube Complement
Frequency Range
Inductance Scale Range 1 micro H 10 milli H.
Actual Capacity Scale Range 40 MMF - 450 MMF
Effective Capacity Scale Range 40 MMF 400 MMF
Vernier Capacity Scale Range3 MMF +3 MMF
"Q" Scale Range
Dimensions

ASSEMBLY AND OPERATION OF THE HEATHKIT MODEL QM-1 G-METER

The Heathkit Q Meter is a device of particular value in work with resonant circuits within the frequency and capacity ranges of the instrument.

It enables the user to measure the performance of such circuits and their component parts at the operating frequency and thus makes it possible to predict their operation in actual use.

The instrument is designed for simplicity both in construction and operation. But despite its simplicity, it is capable of excellent performance if properly constructed and intelligently used. Care used in the assembly will reward the builder through years of reliable service. Maximum results will be obtained by following the information given in this manual. It is, therefore, suggested that you take a few minutes now and read the entire manual, or at least the parts pertaining to the assembly and testing before any work is started.

Large pictorial diagrams are furnished and should be attached above the work space for your convenience. These pictorials are duplicated in a smaller size in this manual. The large prints may be discarded after the instrument is completed, but the manual should be retained in your files for future reference.

Unpack the kit carefully and check each part against the parts list. In doing this, you will become acquainted with each part. Refer to the charts and other i formation on the inside covers of this manual to help you identify any parts about which there may be a question. Make sure that all parts have been removed from the packaging material before it is thrown out. If a shortage is found in checking the parts, please notify us promptly and return the inspection slip with your letter to us. Hardware items are counted by weight, and if a few are missing, please obtain them locally if at all possible.

Resistors and controls generally have a tolerance rating of plus or minus 20% unless otherwise stated in the parts list. Thus a 10,000 ohm resistor may test anywhere from 8,000 ohms to 12,000 ohms. The tolerance on condensers is frequently even greater. This Heathkit is designed to accommodate such variations.

Small changes in parts may be made by the Heath Company. Such changes will not adversely affect the operation of the instrument, and will only be made to insure a minimum delay in filling your order.

Read the note on soldering on the inside back cover. Use only good quality rosin core radio type solder. Pastes or acids, while making soldering even easier, do not result in a joint satisfactory for radio work. Their cleaning action is based on a corroding effect, even if they are called "non-corrosive." They are very difficult to remove completely after the joint is made, and even a minute quantity left behind combines with moisture in the air to form a highly corrosive and conductive product. Thus weeks or months later the continued corrosion may "eat up" the wire or the joint causing failure through open circuits, or the conduction through the growing deposit may cause sufficient leakage to prevent proper operation.

NOTE: All guarantees are voided and we will not repair or service instruments in which acid core solder or pastes are used. (When in doubt about solder, it is recommended that a new roll plainly marked "Rosin Core Radio Solder" be purchased.)

CONSTRUCTION

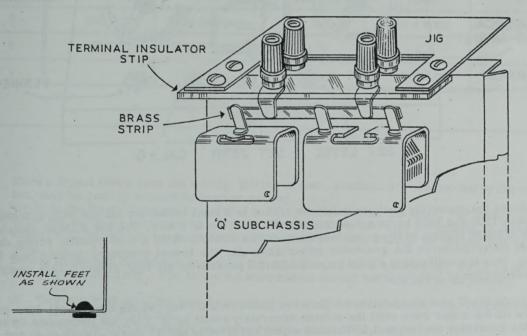
Many components are supplied by the manufacturers with leads that are longer than the particular application requires. Of course, all excess lead lengths should be removed so as to permit neat and direct installation of the components involved. Following this procedure will very definitely result in superior operation of the instrument and will afford you a sense of satisfaction and pride in having constructed a neat and professional appearing instrument.

Whenever necessary, use spaghetti or insulated sleeving over bare wires on condensers or resistors to prevent the leads from accidentally touching adjacent terminals, wires or metal parts.

Assemble the generator sub-chassis, the "Q" sub-chassis, the main chassis and the panel separately. Wire the first three parts as far as possible, then mount both sub-chassis on the main chassis and complete the wiring between these parts. Attach the panel to the chassis and complete the wiring.



Note: Make sure the miniature and noval tube sockets are free from obstructions before inserting the tubes. These small tubes are fairly fragile and broken tubes are not covered by any guarantee.



NOTE: After the tuning condensers are mounted on the "Q" sub-chassis, temporarily fasten the jig to the "Q" sub-chassis and to the insulated terminal strip (with the binding posts attached). Solder the brass strip to the terminal strip solder lugs and the lugs on the tuning condensers. Now the jig can be removed and discarded.

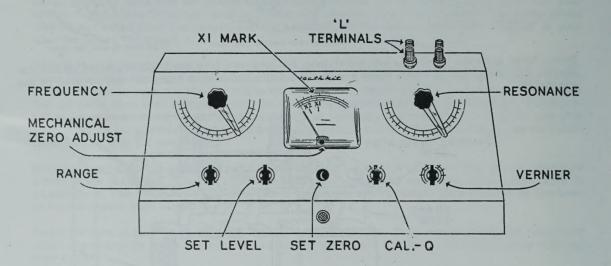
TEST AND CALIBRATION

Check the wiring carefully before proceeding. Inspect all solder connections and make sure that no stray wires or excess solder can cause short circuits between adjacent contacts on sockets and switches.

Plug the line cord into a 117 volt 50-60 cycle AC outlet. CAUTION: Do not connect to a DC outlet for this will seriously damage the power transformer.

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL and turn the SET LEVEL control clockwise. After a minute warmup observe that the level can be set to the red X1 mark on the meter. Turn the generator RANGE switch and FREQUENCY control to make sure that the X1 reading can be obtained at all frequencies.

Insert the test coil in the "L" terminals. Set the CAL-Q switch to Q and adjust the SET ZERO control for a zero reading on the meter. Set generator section to 1,000 kc and check the level by turning the switch to CAL. Switch back to Q and adjust RESONANCE control for maximum meter reading.



Calibrate the generator section as follows: Tune in a local broadcast station with a frequency between 1200 and 1500 kc on a receiver placed near the Q meter. Set the RANGE switch and FREQUENCY control to the same frequency as the station. With a non-metallic screw driver adjust the trimmer on the generator sub-chassis for the lowest frequency audible beat (zero beat). Now the calibration should be well within 3 percent on all four ranges. This completes the calibration of this section.

Calibrate the Q section as follows: Turn the instrument off and set the mechanical zero-adjust screw on the meter case until the pointer accurately reads zero. Turn the instrument on again. Set the generator section to 1,000 kc and adjust the level to the X1 mark. Switch to Q and turn RESONANCE control for maximum indication. With a non-metallic screw driver adjust the trimmer on the Q sub-chassis until the meter reads the Q value indicated on the test coil. Set the VERNIER to O and adjust the pointer on the shaft of the RESONANCE control to read on the $C_{\rm E}$ scale the capacity indicated on the test coil. This completes the calibration.

IN CASE OF DIFFICULTY

If the instrument fails to perform as outlined in the foregoing section, proceed as follows:

- 1. Read the next section entitled "Principles of Operation." / thorough understanding of the circuits used may reveal the cause for difficulties.
- 2. Check the voltages at the tube sockets and compare them with representative readings tabulated below. Substantial deviation from the tabulated values would point to a particular portion of the circuit. Further investigation of that portion may reveal the cause.

		VOLTAGE TABLE							
	6X5	OD3	12AT7	12AU7	6AL5 0 0-1.5 NEG				
1	NC	T 1-4	0-80	70-90					
2	0	60-80 NEG	0-5 NEG	0-1.5 NEG					
3	200-220 AC	Line Jumper 0		4-5	0				
4	NC	NC	0	0	4-6 AC				
- 5	200-220 AC	70-90	0	0	0				
6	T 140-160	NC	120-150	70-90	0				
7	5-7 AC	Line Jumper	0	0-1.5 NEG	0-1.5 NEG				
8	180-210	T 140-160	1-3	4-5					
9			5-7 AC	5-7 AC					

NC means NO CONNECTION
T means used as tiepoint

- 3. Have a friend check over the wiring. Wiring errors, consistently overlooked by the constructor, may be readily evident to another person.
- 4. Write to the Heath Company, referring to this instrument as the QM-1 "Q" meter, and describe the difficulty encountered. Include all information that may be helpful in locating the cause, such as voltage readings for instance, and we will attempt to advise you by return mail.
- 5. Should inspection reveal the necessity for replacement of a component, write to the Heath Company immediately. The following information should be supplied in all cases:
 - A. Thoroughly identify the part in question by using the part number and description found in the manual parts list.
 - B. Identify the type and model number of kit in which it is used.
 - C. Mention the order number and date of purchase.
 - D. Describe the nature of defect or reason for requesting replacement.

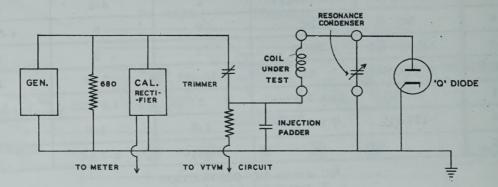
PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

The Heathkit Q meter operates on the principle of resonance. To obtain this resonance two conditions must be satisfied: 1. There must be a circuit capable of resonance and 2. There must be a signal to which the circuit can resonate. The signal is obtained from the generator section, and the resonant circuit comprises the Resonance condenser, the injection padder condenser and the coil under test.

To indicate resonance, a VTVM circuit is connected across the Resonance condenser. If the current flow from the generator through the injection padder is obtained from a constant current source, the voltage at resonance developed across the coil under test will be directly proportional to the Q of the circuit. Because the injection padder is much larger than the resonance condenser, practically all of the voltage across the coil appears also across the resonance condenser, where it is measured by the VTVM.

When external capacities are connected in parallel with the resonating condenser this may no longer be true and the indicated circuit Q may be much less than the actual circuit Q. (If the external capacity and the resonating condenser total 5000 MMF, the indicated Q will be half the actual Q.)

By making the injection current a constant of a particular value, the voltage developed across the coil will be a direct indication of the Q of the circuit.



To insure a constant injection current, the output from the generator is metered to give a constant voltage. This voltage is applied to a small trimmer condenser in series with the large injection padder. The current depends practically only on the setting of the trimmer condenser and the padder current is constant. Adjustment of the trimmer during calibration correlates the meter readings of the Calibrate and VTVM sections. The relationship is independent of frequency and thus this calibration at one frequency will hold for all others.

Any losses in the resonant circuit will be reflected in a lower Q reading. In general, the losses in the coil are much greater than the losses in the other circuit elements. Thus the Q of the circuit is the Q of the coil for all practical purposes. However, for conditions involving very high Q coils and low capacity settings of the resonating condenser, this may not hold fully true, and the losses in the resonating condenser and the stray capacity reduce the indicated circuit Q below the Q of the coil itself. The effective value of the resonating condenser is used in the tests involving resonance with a coil, and is equal to the capacity of the resonating condenser in series with the injection padder.

The total capacity between the C terminals is the sum of the capacity of the resonating condenser and the stray capacities in the wiring. This value is used in capacity measurements using the substitution method.

APPLICATIONS

The Heathkit Q Meter is an instrument that enables the technician to simulate conditions actually encountered in practical circuits, and measure the performance of the coil or condenser by itself. Such measurements are made at the operating frequency octually encountered in the practical circuits.

Thus, during the design of a broadcast receiver for instance, a loop antenna may be checked for frequency coverage and for loss of Q because of the proximity of the chassis. Various types of loop antennas may be compared by noting the Q indicated. The distributed capacity of the loop may readily be determined. The effective capacity of a tuning condenser, as well as the minimum capacity may be readily determined by substitution.

The following procedures may be used as a guide until sufficient familiarity with the instrument and its characteristics are obtained.

To measure inductance of a coil:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect the coil to the L terminals.

Set the generator section to the appropriate frequency (250 kc, 790 kc, 2.5 mc or 7.9 mc) and adjust the level to X1.

Set the CAL-Q switch to Q.

Adjust the resonating condenser for maximum indication on the meter.

Read the inductance on the L scale and place the decimal point properly by referring to the inductance-frequency tabulation.

To measure the Q of a coil:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect the coil to the L terminals.

Set the generator section to the desired frequency, and adjust the level to X1.

Set the CAL-Q switch to Q.

Adjust the resonating condenser accurately for maximum indication on the meter.

Read the Q value on the meter.

(If the meter reads off scale, switch to CAL. and adjust level to X2. Switch to Q and double the indicated value.)

To measure the distributed capacity of a coil:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect the coil to the L terminals.

Set the resonating condenser to a convenient small value such as 100 MMF (C_E scale). Note this value as C_A .

Set the CAL-Q switch to Q and adjust the generator section to give a maximum indication. Note the generator frequency.

Set the generator to a new frequency equal to half the old frequency.

Switch to CAL and check the level.

Switch back to Q and adjust the resonating condenser to give a maximum indication.

Note the value on the CE scale and call this value CB.

The distributed capacity is readily calculated from

$$C_{D} = \frac{C_{B}-4C_{A}}{3}$$

Note: While this method is not completely accurate, it will suffice in most cases. The accuracy may be increased by repeating the measurement with different values of C_A and averaging the results.

To measure a capacity of 425 MMF or less:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect a test coil to the L terminals.

Connect the unknown condenser to the C terminals.

Set the resonating condenser to a small value (50 MMF for instance). Note this value as $C_{\rm A}$

Switch to Q and adjust the generator section for maximum indication.

Switch to CAL and remove the unknown condenser.

Switch to Q and adjust the resonating condenser for maximum indication.

Note the reading on the CT scale as CB.

The unknown capacity is readily calculated from

$$C_{X}=C_{B}-C_{A}$$
.

Note: For very small capacities, the vernier dial may be used instead of the main dial.

To measure a capacity larger than 425 MMF:

Set CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect a test coil of known inductance to the L terminals.

Connect the unknown condenser to the C terminals.

Switch to Q and adjust the generator for maximum reading.

Note the capacity on the CT scale as CA.

Note the generator frequency as f.

Using the inductance of the test coil as L, calculate the resonating capacity CB from

$$C_{\rm B} = \frac{1}{6.28^2 {\rm f}^2 {\rm L}}$$
 i.e. $\omega = \omega C_{\rm B}$

This value $C_{\rm B}$ is made up of three parts: $C_{\rm A}$ in parallel with the unknown capacity $C_{\rm X}$ and and the two in series with the 5000 MMF injection padder. The unknown is calculated from

$$C_{X} = \frac{5000 C_{B}}{5000 - C_{B}} - C_{A}$$

SERVICE

In event continued operational difficulties of the completed instrument are experienced, may we remind you that the facilities of the Heath Company Service Department are at your disposal. Your instrument may be returned for inspection and repair for a service charge of \$5.00 plus the cost of any additional material that may be required. THIS SERVICE POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO COMPLETED INSTRUMENTS CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS AS STATED IN THE MANUAL. Instruments that are not completed or instruments that are modified will not be accepted for repair. Instruments showing evidence of acid core solder or paste fluxes will be returned NOT repaired.

The Heath Company is willing to offer its utmost cooperation to assist you in obtaining the proper operation of your instrument and therefore the factory repair service is available for a period of one year from the date of purchase.

NOTE: Before returning this unit, be sure that all parts are securely mounted. Attach a tag to the instrument, giving name, address and trouble experienced. Pack in a rugged container, preferably wood, using at least three inches of shredded newspaper or excelsior on all sides. Do not ship in the original kit carton as this carton is not considered adequate for safe shipment of the completed instrument. Ship by prepaid express, if possible. Return shipment will be made by express collect. Note that a carrier cannot be held liable for damages in transit if PACKING IN HIS OPINION is insufficient.

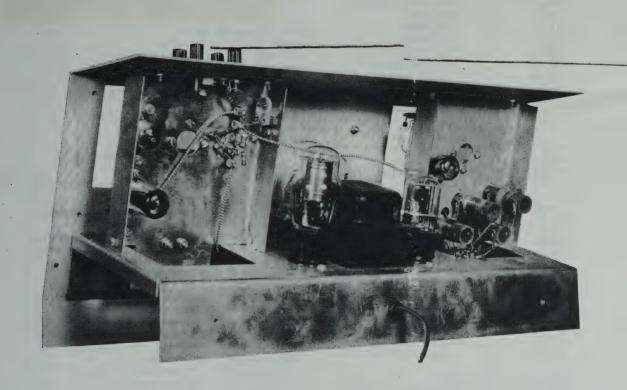
Prices are subject to change without notice. The Heath Company reserves the right to change the design of this instrument without incurring liability for equipment previously supplied.

WARRANTY

The Heath Company limits its warranty of any parts supplied vith any Heathkit (except tubes, meters and rectifiers, where the original manufacturer's guarantee only applies) to the replacement within three (3) months of said part, which when returned with prior permission, postpaid, was, in the judgment of the Heath Company, defective at the time of sale.

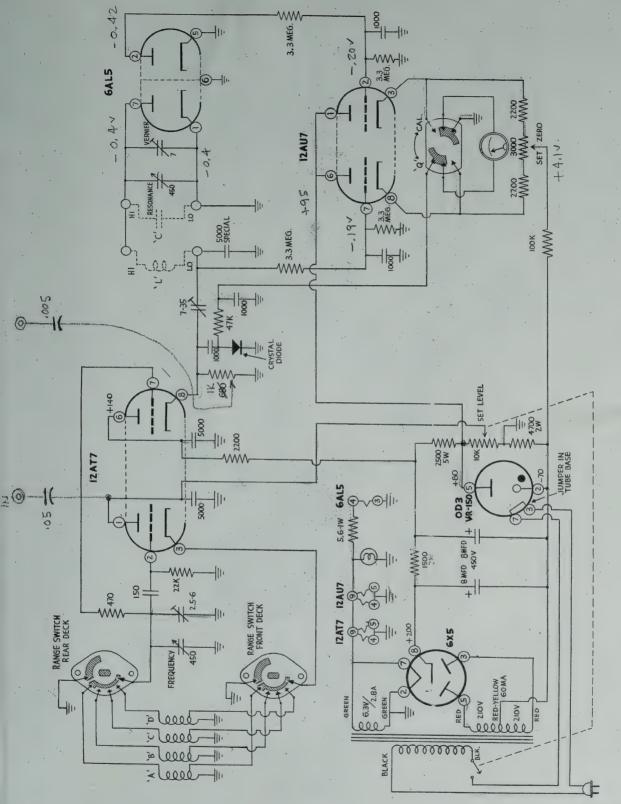
The assembler is urged to follow the instructions exactly as provided. The Heath Company assumes no responsibility or liability for any damages or injuries sustained in the assembly of the device or in the operation of the completed instrument.

HEATH COMPANY Benton Harbor, Michigan

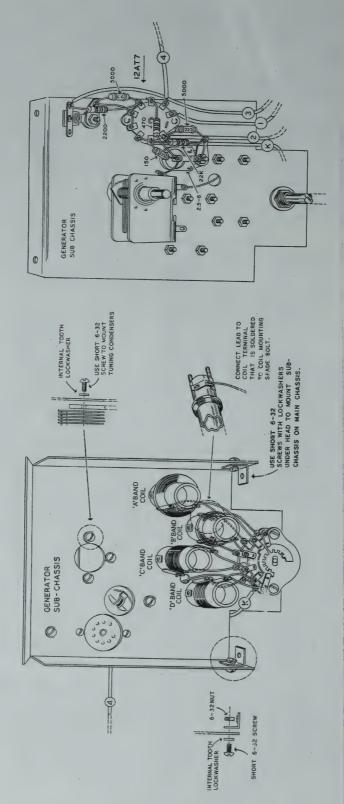


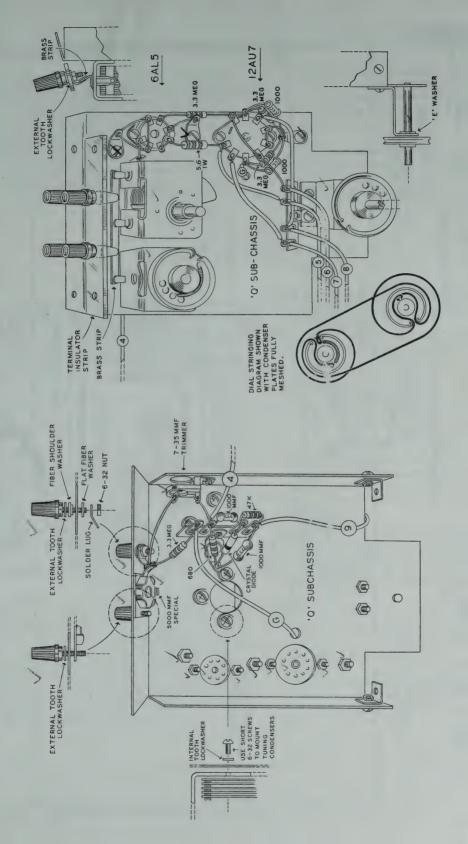
PARTS LIST

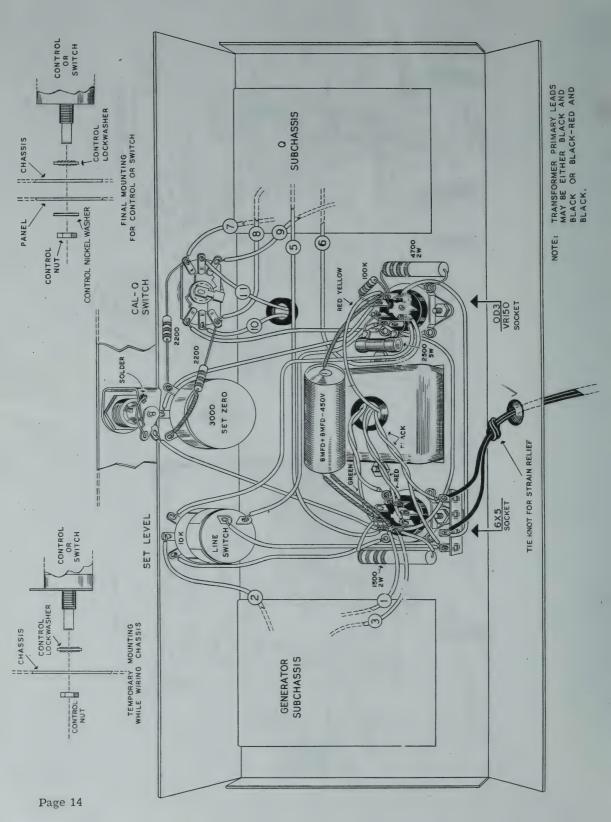
Part	Parts		Part	Parts	
	Per Kit	Description		Per Kit	Description
					202011011011
Resistors			Sockets-	Terminals	
1-6	1	470 Ohms	434-2	2	Octal sockets
1-7	1	680 Ohms	434-16	2	Noval 9-pin sockets
1-44	3	2200 Ohms	434-34	1	Miniature 7-pin socket
1-22	1	22K Ohms	427-2	4	Terminal bases
1-25	1	47K Ohms	100-M16	4	Terminal caps
1-26	1	100K Ohms	75-9	1	Terminal insulator strip
1-38	4	3.3 Meg. Ohms	431-1	1	1-lug terminal strip
1-41A	1	5.6 Ohm 1 watt	431-3	1	3-lug terminal strip
1-14B	1	1500 Ohm 2 watt	431-5	2	4-lug terminal strips
1-2B	1	4700 Ohm 2 watt			
3-1E	1	2500 Ohm 5 watt	Meter-T	ubes-Lan	np
			407-17	1	50 microamp. meter
Controls		2000 01	411-17	1	6X5 tube
11-9	1	3000 Ohms w.w.	411-24	- 1	12AT7 tube
19-2	1	10K Ohms w. switch	411-25	1	12AU7 tube
~ .			411-32	1	OD3/VR150 tube
Condenser		5000 3535T	411-40	1	6AL5 tube
20-26	1	5000 MMF special	412-1	1	#47 lamp
21-11	1	150 MMF			
21-14	4	1000 MMF	Metal Pa		
21-15	2	5000 MMF	90-18	1	Cabinet
25-3	1	8 + 8 MFD 450 volt	100-M19		Dial drive pulleys
26-11	2	450 MMF tuning	200-M40		Chassis
26-12	1	7 MMF tuning	200-M4		Gen. subchassis
31-7	1	2.5-6 MMF	200-M42		"Q" subchassis
31-5	1	7-35 MMF	203-M41		Panel
Coils			204-M42		Drive Shaft bracket
	1	Band "A" coil	205-M171		Gen. dial plate
40-11 40-12	1	Band "B" coil	205-M17		"Q" dial plate
40-12	1	Band "C" coil	205-M1		Assembly template
40-13	1	Band "D" coil	453-M6	_	Drive shaft
40-14	1	Test coil	Hardware 250-2	6	9. 40. 202
40-20	1	rest con	250-2	o 17	3-48 screws
Transforn	ner_Cryst	tal-Switches	250-7	17	6-32 x 3/16 screws
54-5	1	Power transformer	250-9	18	#6 x 3/8 Sheet metal screws 6-32 x 3/8 screws
56-1	1	Crystal diode	250-5	2	8-32 x 1/8 pointer set screws
63-48	1	4-position switch	250-15	2	8-32 x 3/16 pulley set screws
63-49	î	DPDT-NS switch	250-10	4	8-32 knob set screws
	-		252-1	6 ,	3-48 nuts
Wire			252-3	33	6-32 nuts
89-1	1	Line cord	252-4	2	8-32 nuts
212-M2	ī	Brass strip	252-7	4	Control nuts
340-2	1	Length bare wire	253-1	1	#6 flat fiber washer
344-1	1	Length hookup wire	253-2	î	#6 Fiber shoulder washer
346-1	1	Length sleeving	253-10	3	Control nickel washers
349-1	1	Length dial cord	253-11	1	"E" washer
			254-1	37	#6 lockwashers (int.)
Knobs-Pi	ilot light pa	arts	254-2	2	#8 lockwashers
462-4	1	Acorn knob	254-5	4	Control lockwashers
462-6	2	Tuning knobs	254-6	4	#6 lockwashers (ext.)
462-M11		Pointer knobs	254-7	6	#3 lockwashers
100-M10		Dial pointers	259-1	9	#6 solder lugs
252-12	1	Pilot light nut	73-1	2	3/8 rubber grommets
413-1	1	Pilot light jewel	204-9	4	Angle brackets
434-22	1	Pilot light socket	258-1	1	Dial cord spring
455-1	1	Pilot light bushing	261-1	4	Rubber feet



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9. Read the resistance, indicated by the dial pointer, on the "B" scale. If the dial pointer indicates "1" (center scale), the resistors are of equal value. If the pointer is to the right or left of center scale, the resistors are not of equal value. To determine the value of the unequal resistor (or any component being tested), use the formulas shown inside the "B" scale. If the pointer is to the left of center scale, use the formulas inside the left scale.

If the pointer is to the right of center scale, use the formulas inside the right scale. It is normal when you measure extreme values, to have the null occur at a much higher point on the null meter.

NOTE: If you use batteries with your RLC Bridge, measure them with a voltmeter occasionally to make sure they are 7 volts or higher. This will insure the best operation for your bridge.

IN CASE OF DIFFICULTY

This part of the Manual provides you with information that will help you locate and correct difficulties which may occur in your RLC Bridge. This information is divided into two sections. The first section, "General," contains suggestions of a general nature in the following areas:

- Visual check and inspection.
- Precautions to observe when bench testing.

The second section contains a "Troubleshooting Chart" that has a series of "Conditions" and "Possible Causes." Start your troubleshooting procedure by first reading the following "General" section. Then proceed to the appropriate "Condition" and "Possible Cause."

GENERAL

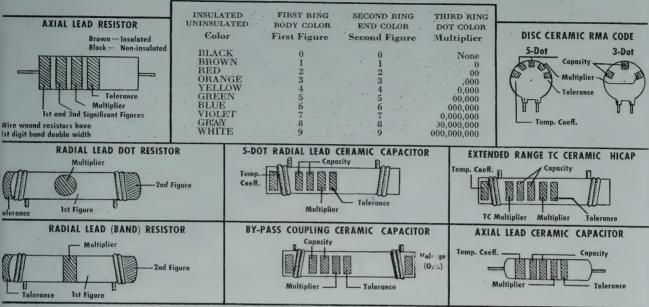
Visual Checks

1. About 90% of the kits that are returned for repair do not function properly due to poor soldering. Therefore, you can eliminate many troubles by a careful inspection of connections to make sure they are soldered as described in the "Soldering" section of the "Assembly Notes." Re-heat any doubtful connections and be sure all the wires are soldered at places where several wires are connected. Check carefully for solder bridges between circuit board foils.

- Check to be sure that all transistors are in their proper locations, and are installed correctly.
- 3. Check the value of each part. Be sure that the proper part has been wired into the circuit, as shown in the Pictorial diagrams and is called out in the wiring instructions. It would be easy, for example,to install a 200 Ω (red-black-brown) resistor in a step that calls for a 1000 Ω (brown-black-red) resistor.
- Recheck the wiring. Trace each lead in colored pencil on the Pictorial as you check it. It is frequently helpful to have a friend check your work. Someone who is not familiar with the unit may notice something you have consistently overlooked.
- Check all component leads connected to the circuit board. Make sure the leads do not extend too far through the circuit board and make contact with other connections or parts.
- Check all of the wires that are connected to the circuit board or switches to be sure the wires do not touch each other or other lugs. Make sure all wires are properly soldered.
- If the difficulty still is not cured, read the "Precautions for Bench Testing," then refer to the "Troubleshooting Chart."



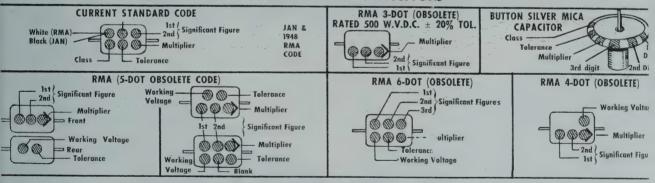
STANDARD COLOR CODE — RESISTORS AND CAPACITORS



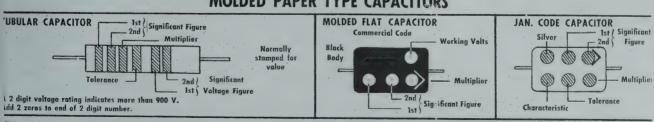
The standard color code provides all necessary information required to properly identify color coded resistors and capacitors. Refer to the color code for numerical values and the zeroes or multipliers assigned to the colors used. A fourth color band on resistors determines tolerance rating as follows: Gold = 5%, silver = 10%. Absence of the fourth band indicates a 20% tolerance rating.

The physical size of carbon resistors is determined by their wattage rating. Carbon resistors most commonly used in Heath kits are 1/2 watt. Higher wattage rated resistors when specified are progressively larger in physical size. Small wire wound resistors 1/2 watt, 1 or 2 watt may be color coded but the firs band will be double width.

MOLDED MICA TYPE CAPACITOES



MOLDED PAPER TYPE CAPACITORS



The tolerance rating of capacitors is determined by the color code. For example: red = 2%, green = 5%, etc. The voltage rating of capacitors is obtained by multiplying the color value by 100. For example: orange = 3×100 or 300 volts. Blue = 6×100 or 600 volts.

In the design of Heathkits, the temperature coefficient of ceramic or mica capacitors is not generally a critical factor and therefore Heathkit manuals avoid reference to temperature coefficient specifications.

CONDENSED

Assembling and Using Your...

HeathKit

Q-METER

MODEL QM-1

HEATH COMPANY

A Subsidiary of Daystrom Inc.

BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

Assembling and Using Your...

Heathkit

Q-METER

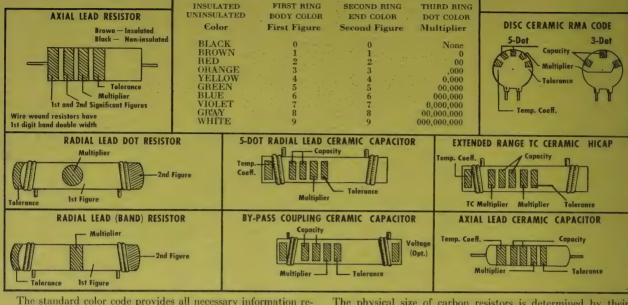
MODEL QM-1

HEATH COMPANY

A Subsidiary of Daystrom Inc.

BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

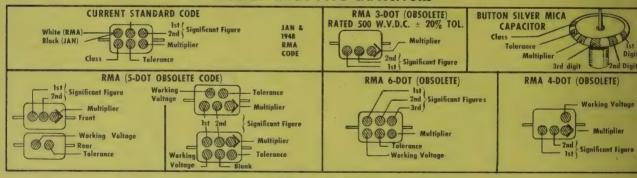
STANDARD COLOR CODE — RESISTORS AND CAPACITORS



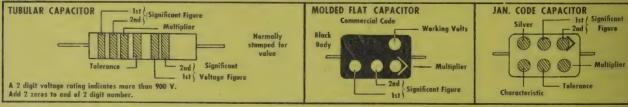
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MOLDED MICA TYPE CAPACITORS



MOLDED PAPER TYPE CAPACITORS



The tolerance rating of capacitors is determined by the color code. For example: red = 2%, green = 5%, etc. The voltage rating of capacitors is obtained by multiplying the color value by 100. For example: orange = 3×100 or 300 volts. Blue = 6×100 or 600 volts.

In the design of Heathkits, the temperature coefficient of ceramic or mica capacitors is not generally a critical factor and therefore Heathkit manuals avoid reference to temperature coefficient specifications.

HEATHKIT MODEL QM-1 Q-METER



SPECIFICATIONS

Power Requirements
Tube Complement
1 - 12AU7 VTVM amplifier
Frequency Range
Inductance Scale Range 1 micro H 10 milli H.
Actual Capacity Scale Range 40 MMF - 450 MMF
Effective Capacity Scale Range 40 MMF - 400 MMF
Vernier Capacity Scale Range3 MMF - +3 MMF
"Q" Scale Range
Dimensions

ASSEMBLY AND OPERATION OF THE HEATHKIT MODEL QM-1 Q-METER

The Heathkit Q Meter is a device of particular value in work with resonant circuits within the frequency and capacity ranges of the instrument.

It enables the user to measure the performance of such circuits and their component parts at the operating frequency and thus makes it possible to predict their operation in actual use.

The instrument is designed for simplicity both in construction and operation. But despite its simplicity, it is capable of excellent performance if properly constructed and intelligently used. Care used in the assembly will reward the builder through years of reliable service. Maximum results will be obtained by following the information given in this manual. It is, therefore, suggested that you take a few minutes now and read the entire manual, or at least the parts pertaining to the assembly and testing before any work is started.

Large pictorial diagrams are furnished and should be attached above the work space for your convenience. These pictorials are duplicated in a smaller size in this manual. The large prints may be discarded after the instrument is completed, but the manual should be retained in your files for future reference.

Unpack the kit carefully and check each part against the parts list. In doing this, you will become acquainted with each part. Refer to the charts and other information on the inside covers of this manual to help you identify any parts about which there may be a question. Make sure that all parts have been removed from the packaging material before it is thrown out. If a shortage is found in checking the parts, please notify us promptly and return the inspection slip with your letter to us. Hardware items are counted by weight, and if a few are missing, please obtain them locally if at all possible.

Resistors and controls generally have a tolerance rating of plus or minus 20% unless otherwise stated in the parts list. Thus a 10,000 ohm resistor may test anywhere from 8,000 ohms to 12,000 ohms. The tolerance on condensers is frequently even greater. This Heathkit is designed to accommodate such variations.

Small changes in parts may be made by the Heath Company. Such changes will not adversely affect the operation of the instrument, and will only be made to insure a minimum delay in filling your order.

Read the note on soldering on the inside back cover. Use only good quality rosin core radio type solder. Pastes or acids, while making soldering even easier, do not result in a joint satisfactory for radio work. Their cleaning action is based on a corroding effect, even if they are called "non-corrosive." They are very difficult to remove completely after the joint is made, and even a minute quantity left behind combines with moisture in the air to form a highly corrosive and conductive product. Thus weeks or months later the continued corrosion may "eat up" the wire or the joint causing failure through open circuits, or the conduction through the growing deposit may cause sufficient leakage to prevent proper operation.

NOTE: All guarantees are voided and we will not repair or service instruments in which acid core solder or pastes are used. (When in doubt about solder, it is recommended that a new roll plainly marked "Rosin Core Radio Solder" be purchased.)

CONSTRUCTION

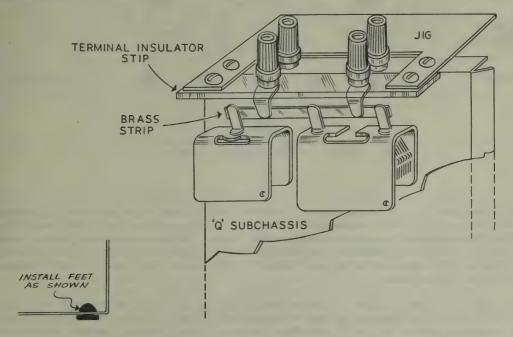
Many components are supplied by the manufacturers with leads that are longer than the particular application requires. Of course, all excess lead lengths should be removed so as to permit neat and direct installation of the components involved. Following this procedure will very definitely result in superior operation of the instrument and will afford you a sense of satisfaction and pride in having constructed a neat and professional appearing instrument.

Whenever necessary, use spaghetti or insulated sleeving over bare wires on condensers or resistors to prevent the leads from accidentally touching adjacent terminals, wires or metal parts.

Assemble the generator sub-chassis, the "Q" sub-chassis, the main chassis and the panel separately. Wire the first three parts as far as possible, then mount both sub-chassis on the main chassis and complete the wiring between these parts. Attach the panel to the chassis and complete the wiring.



Note: Make sure the miniature and noval tube sockets are free from obstructions before inserting the tubes. These small tubes are fairly fragile and broken tubes are not covered by any guarantee.



NOTE: After the tuning condensers are mounted on the "Q" sub-chassis, temporarily fasten the jig to the "Q" sub-chassis and to the insulated terminal strip (with the binding posts attached). Solder the brass strip to the terminal strip solder lugs and the lugs on the tuning condensers. Now the jig can be removed and discarded.

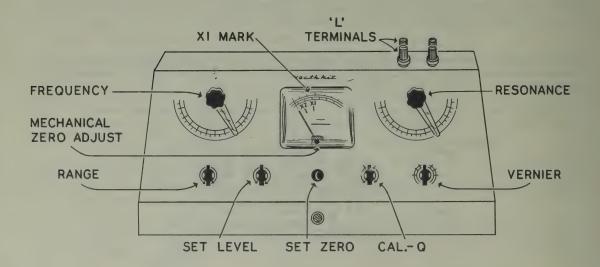
TEST AND CALIBRATION

Check the wiring carefully before proceeding. Inspect all solder connections and make sure that no stray wires or excess solder can cause short circuits between adjacent contacts on sockets and switches.

Plug the line cord into a 117 volt 50-60 cycle AC outlet. CAUTION: Do not connect to a DC outlet for this will seriously damage the power transformer.

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL and turn the SET LEVEL control clockwise. After a minute warmup observe that the level can be set to the red X1 mark on the meter. Turn the generator RANGE switch and FREQUENCY control to make sure that the X1 reading can be obtained at all frequencies.

Insert the test coil in the "L" terminals. Set the CAL-Q switch to Q and adjust the SET ZERO control for a zero reading on the meter. Set generator section to 1,000 kc and check the level by turning the switch to CAL. Switch back to Q and adjust RESONANCE control for maximum meter reading.



Calibrate the generator section as follows: Tune in a local broadcast station with a frequency between 1200 and 1500 kc on a receiver placed near the Q meter. Set the RANGE switch and FREQUENCY control to the same frequency as the station. With a non-metallic screw driver adjust the trimmer on the generator sub-chassis for the lowest frequency audible beat (zero beat). Now the calibration should be well within 3 percent on all four ranges. This completes the calibration of this section.

Calibrate the Q section as follows: Turn the instrument off and set the mechanical zero-adjust screw on the meter case until the pointer accurately reads zero. Turn the instrument on again. Set the generator section to 1,000 kc and adjust the level to the X1 mark. Switch to Q and turn RESONANCE control for maximum indication. With a non-metallic screw driver adjust the trimmer on the Q sub-chassis until the meter reads the Q value indicated on the test coil. Set the VERNIER to O and adjust the pointer on the shaft of the RESONANCE control to read on the $C_{\rm E}$ scale the capacity indicated on the test coil. This completes the calibration.

IN CASE OF DIFFICULTY

If the instrument fails to perform as outlined in the foregoing section, proceed as follows:

- 1. Read the next section entitled "Principles of Operation." A thorough understanding of the circuits used may reveal the cause for difficulties.
- 2. Check the voltages at the tube sockets and compare them with representative readings tabulated below. Substantial deviation from the tabulated values would point to a particular portion of the circuit. Further investigation of that portion may reveal the cause.

	VOLTAGE TABLE					
	6X5	OD3	12AT7	12AU7	6AL5	
1	NC	T 1-4	0-80	70-90	0	
2	0	60-80 NEG	0-5 NEG	0-1.5 NEG	0-1.5 NEG	
3	200-220 AC	Line Jumper	0	4-5	0	
4	NC	NC	0	0	4-6 AC	
5	200-220 AC	70-90	0	0	0	
6	T 140-160	NC	120-150	70-90	0	
7	5-7 AC	Line Jumper	0	0-1.5 NEG	0-1.5 NEG	
8	180-210	Т 140-160	1-3	4-5		
9			5-7 AC	5-7 AC		

3. Have a friend check over the wiring. Wiring errors, consistently overlooked by the constructor, may be readily evident to another person.

NC means NO CONNECTION
T means used as tiepoint

- 4. Write to the Heath Company, referring to this instrument as the QM-1 "Q" meter, and describe the difficulty encountered. Include all information that may be helpful in locating the cause, such as voltage readings for instance, and we will attempt to advise you by return mail.
- 5. Should inspection reveal the necessity for replacement of a component, write to the Heath Company immediately. The following information should be supplied in all cases:
 - A. Thoroughly identify the part in question by using the part number and description found in the manual parts list.
 - B. Identify the type and model number of kit in which it is used.
 - C. Mention the order number and date of purchase.
 - D. Describe the nature of defect or reason for requesting replacement.

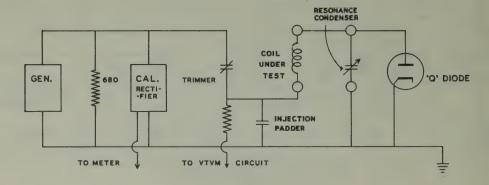
PRINCIPLES OF OPERATION

The Heathkit Q meter operates on the principle of resonance. To obtain this resonance two conditions must be satisfied: 1. There must be a circuit capable of resonance and 2. There must be a signal to which the circuit can resonate. The signal is obtained from the generator section, and the resonant circuit comprises the Resonance condenser, the injection padder condenser and the coil under test.

To indicate resonance, a VTVM circuit is connected across the Resonance condenser. If the current flow from the generator through the injection padder is obtained from a constant current source, the voltage at resonance developed across the coil under test will be directly proportional to the Q of the circuit. Because the injection padder is much larger than the resonance condenser, practically all of the voltage across the coil appears also across the resonance condenser, where it is measured by the VTVM.

When external capacities are connected in parallel with the resonating condenser this may no longer be true and the indicated circuit Q may be much less than the actual circuit Q. (If the external capacity and the resonating condenser total 5000 MMF, the indicated Q will be half the actual Q.)

By making the injection current a constant of a particular value, the voltage developed across the coil will be a direct indication of the Q of the circuit.



To insure a constant injection current, the output from the generator is metered to give a constant voltage. This voltage is applied to a small trimmer condenser in series with the large injection padder. The current depends practically only on the setting of the trimmer condenser and the padder current is constant. Adjustment of the trimmer during calibration correlates the meter readings of the Calibrate and VTVM sections. The relationship is independent of frequency and thus this calibration at one frequency will hold for all others.

Any losses in the resonant circuit will be reflected in a lower Q reading. In general, the losses in the coil are much greater than the losses in the other circuit elements. Thus the Q of the circuit is the Q of the coil for all practical purposes. However, for conditions involving very high Q coils and low capacity settings of the resonating condenser, this may not hold fully true, and the losses in the resonating condenser and the stray capacity reduce the indicated circuit Q below the Q of the coil itself. The effective value of the resonating condenser is used in the tests involving resonance with a coil, and is equal to the capacity of the resonating condenser in series with the injection padder.

The total capacity between the C terminals is the sum of the capacity of the resonating condenser and the stray capacities in the wiring. This value is used in capacity measurements using the substitution method.

APPLICATIONS

The Heathkit Q Meter is an instrument that enables the technician to simulate conditions actually encountered in practical circuits, and measure the performance of the coil or condenser by itself. Such measurements are made at the operating frequency actually encountered in the practical circuits.

Thus, during the design of a broadcast receiver for instance, a loop antenna may be checked for frequency coverage and for loss of Q because of the proximity of the chassis. Various types of loop antennas may be compared by noting the Q indicated. The distributed capacity of the loop may readily be determined. The effective capacity of a tuning condenser, as well as the minimum capacity may be readily determined by substitution.

The following procedures may be used as a guide until sufficient familiarity with the instrument and its characteristics are obtained.

To measure inductance of a coil:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL,

Connect the coil to the L terminals.

Set the generator section to the appropriate frequency (250 kc, 790 kc, 2.5 mc or 7.9 mc) and adjust the level to X1.

Set the CAL-Q switch to Q.

Adjust the resonating condenser for maximum indication on the meter.

Read the inductance on the L scale and place the decimal point properly by referring to the inductance-frequency tabulation.

To measure the Q of a coil:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect the coil to the L terminals.

Set the generator section to the desired frequency, and adjust the level to X1.

Set the CAL-Q switch to Q.

Adjust the resonating condenser accurately for maximum indication on the meter.

Read the Q value on the meter.

(If the meter reads off scale, switch to CAL. and adjust level to X2. Switch to Q and double the indicated value.)

To measure the distributed capacity of a coil:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect the coil to the L terminals.

Set the resonating condenser to a convenient small value such as 100 MMF (C_E scale). Note this value as C_A .

Set the CAL-Q switch to Q and adjust the generator section to give a maximum indication.

Note the generator frequency.

Set the generator to a new frequency equal to half the old frequency.

Switch to CAL and check the level.

Switch back to Q and adjust the resonating condenser to give a maximum indication.

Note the value on the C_E scale and call this value C_B .

The distributed capacity is readily calculated from

$$C_D = \frac{C_B - 4C_A}{3}$$

Note: While this method is not completely accurate, it will suffice in most cases. The accuracy may be increased by repeating the measurement with different values of C_A and averaging the results.

To measure a capacity of 425 MMF or less:

Set the CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect a test coil to the L terminals.

Connect the unknown condenser to the C terminals.

Set the resonating condenser to a small value (50 MMF for instance). Note this value as $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{A}}$

Switch to Q and adjust the generator section for maximum indication.

Switch to CAL and remove the unknown condenser.

Switch to Q and adjust the resonating condenser for maximum indication.

Note the reading on the C_T scale as C_B .

The unknown capacity is readily calculated from

$$C_{\mathbf{X}} = C_{\mathbf{B}} - C_{\mathbf{A}}$$
.

Note: For very small capacities, the vernier dial may be used instead of the main dial.

To measure a capacity larger than 425 MMF:

Set CAL-Q switch to CAL.

Connect a test coil of known inductance to the L terminals.

Connect the unknown condenser to the C terminals.

Switch to Q and adjust the generator for maximum reading.

Note the capacity on the C_T scale as C_A.

Note the generator frequency as f.

Using the inductance of the test coil as L, calculate the resonating capacity CB from

$$C_B = \frac{1}{6.28^2 f^2 L}$$
 i.e. $\omega L = \frac{1}{\omega C_B}$

This value $C_{\rm B}$ is made up of three parts: $C_{\rm A}$ in parallel with the unknown capacity $C_{\rm X}$ and and the two in series with the 5000 MMF injection padder. The unknown is calculated from

$$C_{X} = \frac{5000 C_{B}}{5000 - C_{B}} - C_{A}$$

SERVICE

In event continued operational difficulties of the completed instrument are experienced, may we remind you that the facilities of the Heath Company Service Department are at your disposal. Your instrument may be returned for inspection and repair for a service charge of \$5.00 plus the cost of any additional material that may be required. THIS SERVICE POLICY APPLIES ONLY TO COMPLETED INSTRUMENTS CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS AS STATED IN THE MANUAL. Instruments that are not completed or instruments that are modified will not be accepted for repair. Instruments showing evidence of acid core solder or paste fluxes will be returned NOT repaired.

The Heath Company is willing to offer its utmost cooperation to assist you in obtaining the proper operation of your instrument and therefore the factory repair service is available for a period of one year from the date of purchase.

NOTE: Before returning this unit, be sure that all parts are securely mounted. Attach a tag to the instrument, giving name, address and trouble experienced. Pack in a rugged container, preferably wood, using at least three inches of shredded newspaper or excelsior on all sides. Do not ship in the original kit carton as this carton is not considered adequate for safe shipment of the completed instrument. Ship by prepaid express, if possible. Return shipment will be made by express collect. Note that a carrier cannot be held liable for damages in transit if PACKING IN HIS OPINION is insufficient.

Prices are subject to change without notice. The Heath Company reserves the right to change the design of this instrument without incurring liability for equipment previously supplied.

WARRANTY

The Heath Company limits its warranty of any parts supplied with any Heathkit (except tubes, meters and rectifiers, where the original manufacturer's guarantee only applies) to the replacement within three (3) months of said part, which when returned with prior permission, postpaid, was, in the judgment of the Heath Company, defective at the time of sale.

The assembler is urged to follow the instructions exactly as provided. The Heath Company assumes no responsibility or liability for any damages or injuries sustained in the assembly of the device or in the operation of the completed instrument.

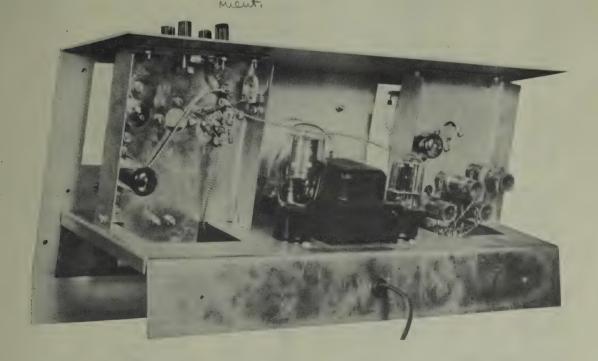
HEATH COMPANY Simples method: Set C7 at 50 p, Cx connected.

Tune for resonance. Disconnect Cx, connect a

puour capacitaire. Cs so that resonance

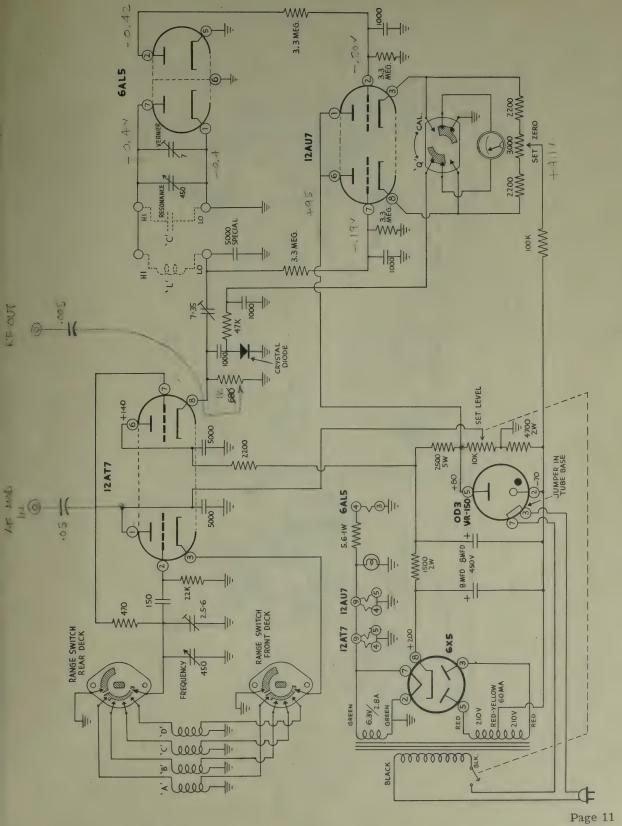
can be obtained on C7 scale, Then Cx = AC7 + Cs Benton Harbor, Michigan

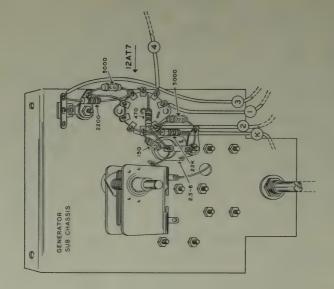
This eliminates freq, calibration from the rulesous.

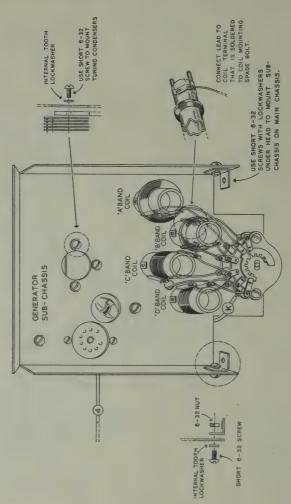


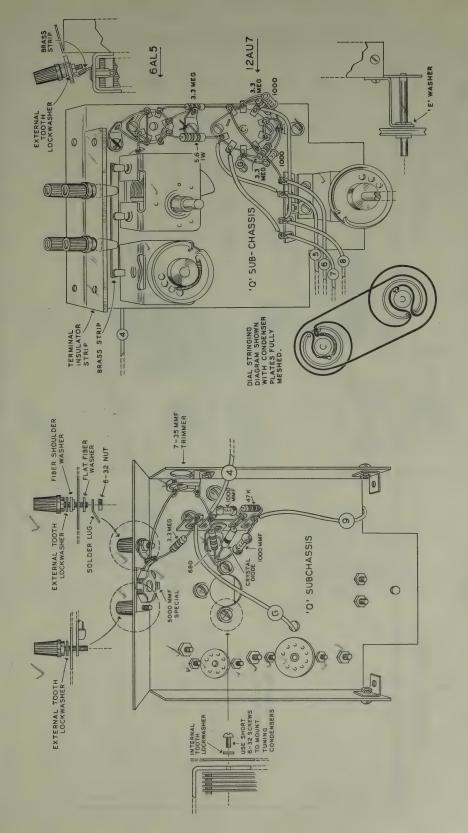
PARTS LIST

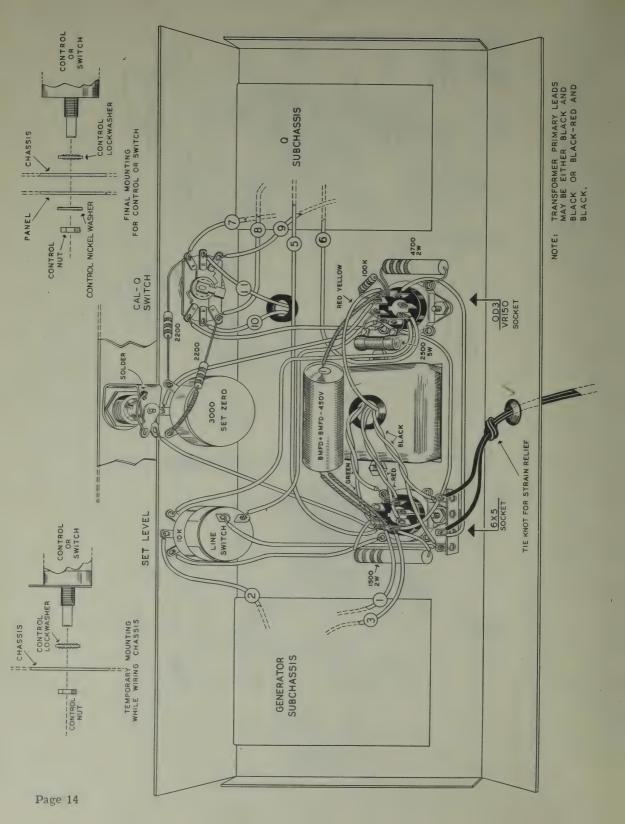
Part No.	Parts Per Kit	Description	Part Par No. Per		Description
					2 ozer pron
Resistor		470 Ohms	Sockets-Terr		
1-6	1			2	Octal sockets
1-7	1 3	680 Ohms 2200 Ohms		2	Noval 9-pin sockets
1-44				1.	Miniature 7-pin socket
1-22	1	22K Ohms		4	Terminal bases
1-25	1	47K Ohms		4	Terminal caps
1-26	1	100K Ohms		1	Terminal insulator strip
1-38	4	3.3 Meg. Ohms		1	1-lug terminal strip
1-41A	1	5.6 Ohm 1 watt	431-3 1		3-lug terminal strip
1-14B	1	1500 Ohm 2 watt	431-5 2	2	4-lug terminal strips
1-2B	1	4700 Ohm 2 watt			
3-1E	1	2500 Ohm 5 watt	Meter-Tubes		
Control	_		407-17		50 microamp. meter
Controls		2000 Oh	411-17 1		6X5 tube
11-9	1	3000 Ohms w.w.	411-24 1	-	12AT7 tube
19-2	1	10K Ohms w. switch	411-25 1		12AU7 tube
0-3			411-32	-	OD3/VR150 tube
Condens		5000 MMT		Ł -	6AL5 tube
20-26	1	5000 MMF special	412-1 1	1	#47 lamp
21-11	1	150 MMF			
21-14	4	1000 MMF	Metal Parts		
21-15	2	5000 MMF		1	Cabinet
25-3	1	8 + 8 MFD 450 volt		2	Dial drive pulleys
26-11	2	450 MMF tuning		1	Chassis
26-12	1	7 MMF tuning		1	Gen. subchassis
31-7	1	2.5-6 MMF		1	"Q" subchassis
31-5	1	7-35 MMF	203-M41F31		Panel
G-11-				1	Drive Shaft bracket
Coils		D1 ((A.V1)	205-M17F33		Gen. dial plate
40-11	1	Band "A" coil	205-M17F34		"Q" dial plate
40-12	1	Band "B" coil		1	Assembly template
40-13	1	Band "C" coil		1	Drive shaft
40-14	1	Band "D" coil	Hardware		
40-23	1	Test coil		6	3-48 screws
m		stal Caritalian	250-7 17		6-32 x 3/16 screws
	•	stal—Switches	250-8 17		#6 x 3/8 Sheet metal screws
54-5	1	Power transformer	250-9 18		6-32 x 3/8 screws
56-1	1	Crystal diode		2	8-32 x 1/8 pointer set screws
63-48	1	4-position switch	250-16 2		8-32 x 3/16 pulley set screws
63-49	.1	DPDT-NS switch	250-22		8-32 knob set screws
Wine			252-1		3-48 nuts
Wire	4	Time cond	252-3 33		6-32 nuts
89-1	1	Line cord	252-4 2		8-32 nuts
212-M2		Brass strip	252-7		Control nuts
340-2	1	Length backup wire	253-1 1		#6 flat fiber washer
344-1 346-1	1	Length hookup wire	253-2 1		#6 Fiber shoulder washer
	1	Length sleeving	253-10 3		Control nickel washers
349-1	1	Length dial cord	253-11 1		"E" washer
92 . 1			254-1 37		#6 lockwashers (int.)
	Pilot light p		254-2 2		#8 lockwashers
462-4	1	Acorn knob	254-5 4		Control lockwashers
462-6	2	Tuning knobs	254-6 4		#6 lockwashers (ext.)
462-M		Pointer knobs	254-7		#3 lockwashers
100-M		Dial pointers	259-1 9		#6 solder lugs
252-12	1	Pilot light nut	73-1 2		3/8 rubber grommets
413-1	1	Pilot light jewel	204-9 4		Angle brackets
434-22	1	Pilot light socket	258-1 1		Dial cord spring
455-1	1	Pilot light bushing	261-1 4	k	Rubber feet

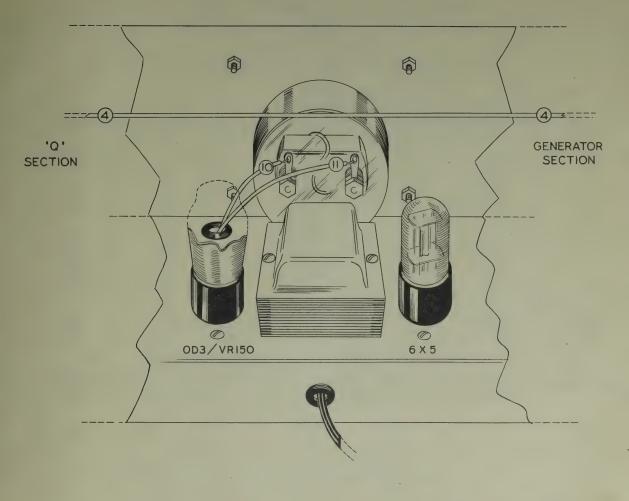






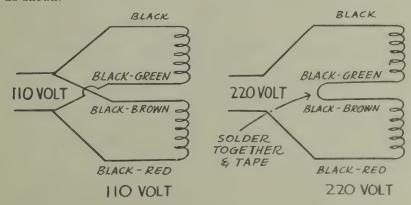






WIRING OF EXPORT TYPE 110/220 VOLT POWER TRANSFORMERS

These transformers have a dual primary for use on either 110 Volts or 220 Volts. Wire as shown.



Notes

RECEIVED in

THURNERING DEPT.

APPROX, INCANDESCENT AND MIGRESCENT DATA FOR SOME VACUUM TUNGSTEN FILAMENT MINISTURE LAMPS

(Times in Milliscoondse Photocell response curve similar to human eye)

Lamp No	<u>Volts</u>	Design	Life-Hrs			AtaDesig Incandescent Time to 90% Max.	Nigrescent
1810 47 755 330	6.3 6.3 6.3	.40 .25 .15 .15	3,000 3,000 3,000 50,000 750	150 120 85 120	50 20 35	325 250 190 250	9 n
756 757 685 1819 387	14 28 5.0 28 28	.08 .08 .06 .04	50,600 50,000 100,000÷ 1,000 (nom) 25,000	100 50 50 70	27 30 25 20 10	225 200 150 160	50 40 27 30
1843 2158 1869	28 3.0 10 # 12	.022 .015 .014	3,000 10,000+ 50,000+	50 70 83 100	16 18 - 6 4 23 33	110	25

Results with resistance in circuit - 25.2 volts with series resistor to reduce voltage to lamp to 6.3 volts:

Lite	290	40
2,7	220	20

Some factors affecting incandescent and nigrescent times.

- 1. Gas filled lamps are faster than vacuum lamps (other factors being equal).
- 2. Resistance in the circuit increases the incandescent time only.
- 3. The lower the current, the faster the lamp (other factors being equal).
- L. Longer life lamps are slower.
- 5. At reduced voltages, lamps are slower.

J. D. Lash
Product Planning-381
2/65



WAVEMETERS

SIMPLEST (CURRENT)
$$f = 1/2\pi VLC$$

$$L = \frac{1}{f} C \qquad L(\mu H) \times C(\rho F) = \frac{25,330}{f^2(MHZ)}$$

$$LAMP #47 6.3 V@.15A = .95 W$$

$$\#49 \quad 2 V @.06A = .12 W$$

Note: SHARPEST WITH A SHORT CIRCUIT INSTEAD OF LAMP.

MILLEN USES THIS DESIGN, SEE ALSO TURNER, DEC. 47 CQ

SIMPLEST (VOLTAGE)

NE-2 NEON LAMP (FIRES AT 70-90 V)

LAMP INDUCTIVELY COUPLED (McMURDO SILVER, 1947) (MODEL 903)

McMURDO - SILVER COILS

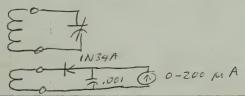
#100 1.6-3.7 MHz #104 40-100 MHz

#101 3.5-8 MHz #105 100-300 MHz

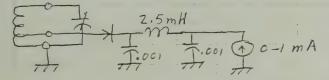
#102 8-19 MHz #106 400-500 MHz

ED LAMP #103 17-40 MHz

DETECTOR INDUCTIVELY COUPLED (MODIFIED 903) RAND, MAY 48 GST

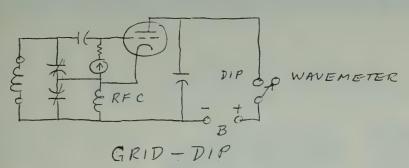


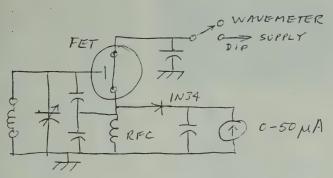
DETECTOR TAP COUPLED , LEW MCCOY, MARCH 67 GST





DIPPERS AS WAVEMETERS

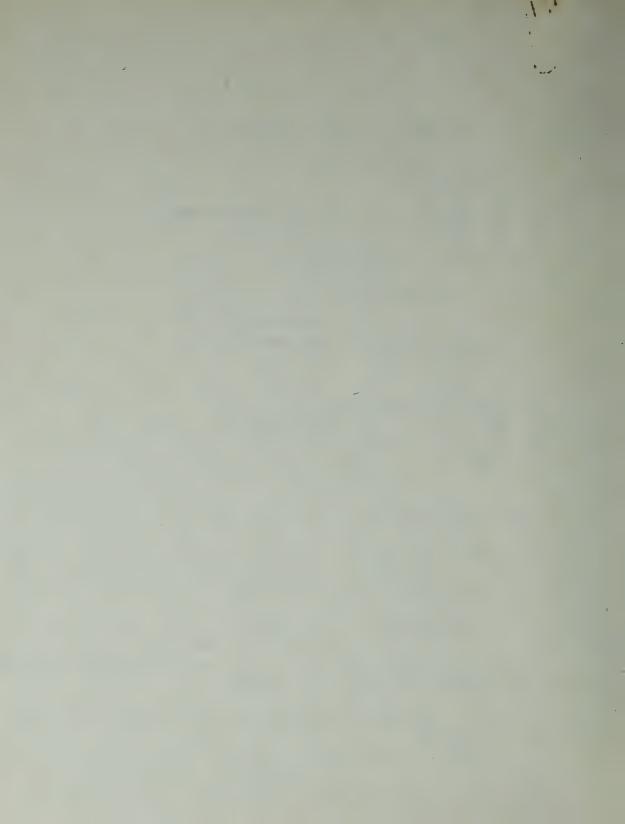




FET DIPPER

HOME PROJECT (1): FIND 10, 18, AND 24 MHZ

HOME PROJECT (2): FIND 160 METERS







The BRC UHF Q Meter A New and Versatile Tool for Industry

CHARLES W. QUINN, Sales Engineer

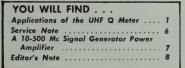
Q Meters have been serving the electronic industry for more than 25 years. Their original application was in the design of resonant circuits, in the early days of radio-frequency communication and broadcasting. Since that time, Q Meter applications have multiplied many times. 1-5 The basic theory of Q Meter operation, however, had not changed in all these years, until the development of the new Type 280-A UHF O Meter. 6 With this change in O meter theory, the applications will be again multiplied. It is these applications which are the subject of this article. Conventional measurements, as well as unconventional measurements, which include measurements of external resonators and components, and "in circuit" Q measurements, will be described.

PURPOSE

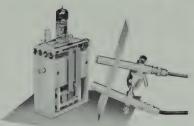
The prime purpose of the UHF Q Meter is to provide industry with a versatile impedance measuring device that will extend Q Meter measurements into the UHF region. The UHF Q Meter is a completely self-contained instrument capable of measuring, rapidly, conveniently, and directly; Q, capacitance, and inductance. Until the advent of the UHF Q Meter, a signal generator, a frequency measuring device, a dc amplifier, and coupling devices were required to make these tedious measurements. Inductance and capacitance, which are now measured directly on the calibrated capacitor, could not even be measured with the above-mentioned equipment.

OPERATING PRINCIPLE

To aid the reader in understanding the theory of the Type 280-A UHF Q







"In-circuit" Q Measurement



Diode Measurement



Coil Measurement

Figure 1. Typical Applications of the UHF Q Meter

Meter it might be well, at this point, to compare its operation with the lower frequency Q Meters, Types 260-A and 190-A. This comparison is especially necessary if use of the instrument, beyond the obvious, is to be understood.

Preivous Q Meters utilized the defini-

$$Q = \frac{X_{LS}}{R_{S}} = \frac{R_{P}}{X_{LP}}, *$$

*S and P subscripts indicate series and parallel configurations respectively. as well as the fact that the voltage $(V_{\rm C})$, measured across C (the Q capacitor), has the following relationship at resonance:

$$V_{\rm C} = Q_{\rm VS}$$
, or $Q = \frac{V_{\rm C}^*}{V_{\rm C}}$

*Within the Q Meter Q limits (10 to 625). V_C is the voltage injected in series with the resonant circuit (Figure 2A). If $V_{\rm S}$ is held constant, then Q is directly proportional to $V_{\rm C}$. This basic principle, employed in all BRC Q Meters to date, is known as the "resonant rise" system of making Q measurements.

ESTIMATE THE Q WIN A Q METER

Yes, that is all that is necessary to win the factory reconditioned Type 160-A Q Meter which will be on display in the BRC exhibit at the IRE show to be held in the New York Coliseum from March 20th through March 23rd. The Q Meter will be awarded to the person whose estimate is closest to the actual measured Q of the resonator circuit to be displayed with the Q Meter. Complete information will be furnished by engineering personnel on duty in BRC Booths 3101 and 3102.

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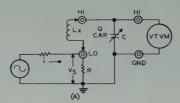
The UHF Q Meter uses the peak of the resonant rise to indicate resonance, but employs the bandwidth relationship to determine Q, where:

$$Q = \frac{f_r}{\wedge f} \tag{1}$$

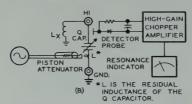
This relationship is shown in Figure 3. Δf is the frequency between the two 0.707 voltage or half-power points, and f_r is the frequency at the resonant peak. As is indicated in Figures 2B and 4, there are other more subtle differences between the UHF Q Meter and the lower frequency Q Meters. These will be discussed later in this article.

FIELDS OF APPLICATION

Because of its frequency range, the UHF Q Meter will serve many fields of the electronic industry. Some examples of these fields ar given below.



Simplified Circuit — Conventional Q Meter (Type 260-A)



Simplified Circuit — UHF Q Meter Type

Figure 2. Comparison of Q Measuring Circuit in Conventional Q Meters and the UHF Q Meter

means of the appropriate controls.

3. The Q capacitor is adjusted until output is indicated on the resonance indicating meter.

4. The Q capacitor or \vec{Q} (frequency) control is adjusted in conjunction with the Level Set control until the resonant peak is indicated at full scale on the meter.

FIELD

Missile and Rocketry

Communications Navigational Aids Radar and ECM Components and Materials Manufacturers

Other Fields

SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS

Telemetry and remote control systems.

Commercial, mobile airborne, relay networks, amateur radio, UHF television, and military mobile.

Glide slope

Inductors, cores, capacitors, UHF diodes, insulators, and resistors. Accelerator, medical research, and basic research of new materials.

BASIC OR CONVENTIONAL MEASUREMENTS Set-up Procedure

A condensed set-up procedure will be given at this point to aid in the understanding of the instrument. The same procedure is used for both conventional and unconventional measurements. Arbitrarily, it will be assumed that the Q and inductance of a small inductor is going to be measured.

1. The component to be measured is clamped to the Q capacitor terminals by means of the clamps provided (Figures 1 and 5), or by other suitable means

2. The oscillator is adjusted to provide the desired operating frequency by

5. The appropriate Q dial is locked and its knob is turned clockwise to the proper half-power point which is indicated by the Q mark on the meter.

6. The Q dial is unlocked and the knob is rotated in a counter-clockwise direction, through the resonant peak, to the opposite half-power point; also indicated by the Q mark on the meter.

7. Q is read directly on the appropriate Q dial, capacitance is read directly on the Q capacitor dial, and inductance is read directly on the integral calculator dial.

Inductance Measurements

Inductance measurements are a primary function of all Q Meters. The UHF Q Meter capacitance dial is pro-

vided with a spiral calculator to compute inductance from the capacitance reading and the operating frequency. The direct-reading inductance range is 2.5 to 146 millimicrohenries (Figure 6). Circuit Q is read directly from the CIRCUIT Q dial.

Capacitance Measurements

Capacitance measurements are second nature to a Q Meter, but are indirect measurements in that a reference inductor or "work. coil" must be used. The clamps provided with the instrument permit individual connection of the work coil and the unknown capacitor for parallel measurements. Standard Q Meter procedure is then employed to make the parallel capacitance measurements and all general Q Meter equations 2,7 apply. Q1 and C1 of the work coil are measured; then, with the unknown capacitor (CX) connected, Q2 and C2 are also measured. The capacitance of the specimen is determined by the equation:

$$C_{X} = C_{1} - C_{2}$$
 and $Q_{X} = \frac{Q_{1} Q_{2}}{Q_{1} - Q_{2}} \times \frac{C_{X}}{C_{1}}$

Dissipation factor measurements can be estimated by referring to Figure 7. For example, a 20-pf capacitor with an R_p of 0.3 meg. ohms can be detected at 210 Mc, using a work coil with a Q_1 of 300. The dissipation factor would then be computed at follows:

$$\begin{array}{l} D = \frac{1}{Q} = \frac{X_{C}}{R_{P}} = \frac{40}{0.3 \times 10^{6}} \\ = 130 \times 10^{-6} \\ = 0.00013 \end{array}$$

Consider the possibilities if higher Q inductors or resonators are used. One precaution must be observed if a false value for C₂ is to be avoided. The Q dials (frequency dials) should always be returned to their original positions, indicated by the resonant peak of the work coil before C_X was connected.

Direct parallel capacitance measurements, over a range of 0.1 to 20 pf are possible on the UHF Q Meter. It is also possible that capacitance measurements can be extended by a "step-shunt" technique. This technique requires that an external capacitor or capacitors (C_A and C_B), within the capacitance range of the instrument, be calibrated at the frequency of measurement. The external capacitors are then connected in parallel

with another work coil and the Type 280-A internal capacitor is adjusted to peak. The external capacitors are removed as required when the unknown capacitor (C_X) is connected. Then:

 $C_X = C_A + C_B + (C_1 - C_2)$ (2) Series techniques may also be used. Some suggestions on this subject are taken up in the resistance measurement section which follows.

Resistance Measurements

Resistance measurements are also indirect measurements, and the procedure used is identical to that used for capacitance measurements. In this case, however, we are interested in the major parameter of resistance. Figure 8 shows approximate limits of measurable resistance for indicated Q1 values of 300 and 500, Q2 values of 20 and 10, and a $\triangle Q$ of 10. Approximate limits for both parallel and series measurements are given. The upper limits of parallel measurements may be extended by utilizing higher Q reference inductors and smaller \(\triangle Q \) values. The lower limits of parallel measurements may be extended, slightly, by using additional external capacitance.

At ultra-high frequencies, series measurements present a more difficult problem. First, shunt capacitance and series inductance of the series jig must be small relative to the resistance to be measured. Secondly, a low inductance and low resistance short-circuiting device must be employed.

In the Type 280-Å, circuit component contact resistance is basically the lower limiting factor in series measurements. This contact resistance usually becomes a function of the component shape and may require a special machined fixture for a given component.

A short cut to solving the multiple computations of the real component of parallel impedance measurements is illustrated in Figure 7. Curves for a given work coil, with Q₁ and frequency held constant, are plotted as a function of Q₂ and R_P. If the work coil is stable, well designed, rigid, well plated, etc., these curves, or a group of curves, can be used for general measurements over long periods of time.

SPECIAL OR NONCONVENTIONAL MEASUREMENTS

The basic parameters of L, C, and Q are often affected when brought near, or in contact with, a component to be tested. Let us consider some specific instances and determine what measurements may be made.

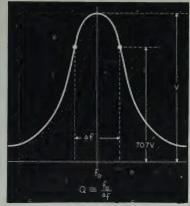


Figure 3. Q Resonance Curve

Measurements Involving Change in Inductance and Resistance

Iron cores, shells, toroids, and rods may now be tested simply, at higher frequencies, with the UHF Q Meter. It has been found that some defects are detectable in the resistive or Q₂ indication at these frequencies (210 to 610 Mc) that do not show up at the lower operating frequencies.

The ferro-resonant frequency of some ferro-magnetic components may be detected on the resonance indicating meter, if this resonance falls within the instrument frequency range.

Figure 9 suggests a possible jig design for coupling these and other components, liquids, and materials into the inductive field of a test coil. The plastic plug can be machined to precisely position the specimen so that the change in C, L, or Q falls within the range of the instrument. A change of inductance

indicates a change in effective permeability and a change in Q indicates a change of specimen resistivity. A high degree of precision can be achieved in these measurements, since both the work coil and plug can be fabricated on precision machines.

A work coil and two plastic plugs, patterned after those shown in Figure 9, were made and attached to the Q capacitor terminals on the UHF Q Meter, and a few experiments were performed which produced some interesting results. In the first experiment, a group of small shell cores were inserted in the plastic plug and tested at 400 Mc. Q1 was determined to be within 5% of 630, and Q2 was within 5% of 284 for all cores. Inductance increased by 5%, indicating permeability greater than unity, even at 400 Mc. Core #4 showed a 5% decrease in inductance, with a drop to 135 in Q_2 . This core was obviously of low-frequency material acting like a poor short circuit. This experiment indicates a technique for evaluating inductive tuning or adjustment devices and their effects upon circuit Q at ultra-high frequencies.

The author has long been curious about the effects of liquids on circuit Q. This curiosity led to the second experiment, performed to determine the effect of tap water on circuit Q, with and without a few salt crystals added. Q2 measured for the clear water was 610. Low losses, very little change in inductance, and approximately 1% increase in distributed capacitance were noted. A pinch of salt (NaC1) was then added and the effects noted. Q2 dropped to 255, with no inductance change apparent. It can be concluded

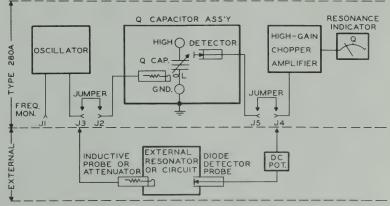


Figure 4. Block Diagram of UHF Q Meter Showing External Resonator Connections

then, that the RF resistivity or losses only change in a positive direction with the addition of salt.

These experiments point up the application of the UHF Q Meter in the UHF inductive heating field (cooking of foods, curing of adhesives and resins, etc.) where it is important to know the frequency of optimum energy ab-

sorption.

Jigs similar in theory to the one discussed above, but more sophisticated, may be constructed to detect, test, and measure more complex components and materials and to solve more exacting problems. For example, a capacitanceloaded or "end-tuned" coaxial resonator could be adapted to check toroidal behavior under truly inductive conditions and with the flux lines in a specific plane.

Measurements Involving Change in Capacitance and Resistance

The measurement of the dielectric loss factor of Teflon, Polyethlene, etc., is one of the most difficult measurements to make with any degree of accuracy. For example, high-grade Teflon is known to have a loss factor of

approximately 0.00014.

The Type 280-A UHF Q Meter, with its frequency range of 210 to 610 Mc and Q range of 10 to 25,000, makes this equivalent high shunt resistance more readable. Further, since the Type 280-A employs a bandwidth measuring system; i.e., \(\Delta f \) is measured between the half-power points, permitting the use of frequency counting techniques; calibration and readability of the Q dials can be eliminated as a source of error and \(\rightarrow \Q \) becomes more readable, limited only by our ability to measure △f. Let us consider the order of △f or frequency changes that will be encountered for such a measurement. Conditions:

1. The specimen capacitance (C_x) should be about 10pf.

2. If a plate area of 0.6 inches is used, material thickness should be 1/32 inch for approximately 10 pf Cx.

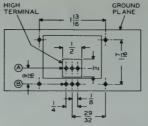
3. C₁, under these conditions, should be

approximately 15pf.

4. Q₁ should be at least 500.

5. Operating frequency is 300Mc. Solving for $\triangle Q$: We can now solve for the expected $\triangle Q$ for a 0.0001 dissipation factor. In this case:

$$D = \frac{1}{Q_x}, Q_x = 10,000.$$



ALL DIMENSIONS IN INCHES ALL HOLES TAPPED 2-56.
A,B-CALIBRATED SPECIMEN
MOUNTING POINTS.

Figure 5. Q Capacitor Terminal Dimensions

Using the standard equation for Q:

$$Q_x = \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{\triangle Q} \times \frac{C_x}{C_1}.$$
 (3)
Let $C_x/C_1 = K = 0.66$ which is a

practical ratio adjustable by manipulation of inducance or frequency and specimen thickness. Then:

$$Q_x = K \frac{Q_1 Q_2}{\triangle Q} \tag{4}$$

$$Q_2 = Q_1 - \triangle Q; \qquad (5)$$
and

$$\triangle Q = \frac{KQ_1^2}{Q_x + KQ_1}.$$
 (6)

Example (for above conditions):

$$\triangle Q = \frac{.66 (500)^{2}}{10,000 + .66 \times 500}$$

$$= \frac{.66 (25 \times 10^{4})}{10,330}$$

$$= 16$$

Calibrated dial divisions at this O

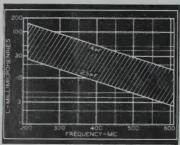


Figure 6. Inductance Range of the UHF Q Meter (Direct Reading)

value are 10 units. This means that estimates from the dial reading can be within approximately 20% of this △O value. With a △Q of 16 at a frequency (f_r) of 300 Mc, what is the frequency bandwidth change? Let us refer to this change as $\triangle f_3$. The derivation of the equation used is as follows:

$$Q_1 = \frac{f_r}{\triangle f_1}, \, \triangle f_1 = \frac{f_r}{Q_1} \quad (7)$$

$$Q_2 = \frac{f_r}{\triangle f_2}, \, \triangle f_2 = \frac{f_r}{Q_2} \quad (8)$$

$$\triangle Q = Q_1 - Q_2, Q_1 > Q_2$$

$$\triangle f_3 = \triangle f_2 - \triangle f_1 \qquad (9)$$

$$- \frac{f_r}{r} - \frac{f_r}{r}$$

To compute the above example:

$$\triangle f_3 = \frac{300 \text{ Mc x } 16}{500 \text{ x } 484}$$

 $= .0198 \text{ Mc} \cdot \text{or } 19.838 \text{ kc}$

From the above example, two factors stand out as important to the accuracy of measurement: First, the value of the ratio K in equation 4, especially if the Q dial readout is to be used, should approach as close to unity as possible to optimize readability. Secondly, equations 7, 8, 9, and 10 indicate that a frequency measurement technique can be used to measure Q_1 , Q_2 , and $\triangle Q$.

Use of an Auxiliary Frequency Counter to Measure Loss Factor

Fortunately for those with dielectric loss measurement problems, the art of frequency measurement is highly refined and is really a simple solution to the loss-factor measurement problem. A popular frequency measuring device found in most laboratories is the frequency counter. This instrument, with a suitable transfer oscillator, has more than sufficient accuracy and resolution for this application. The frequency counter is connected to jack J1 at the

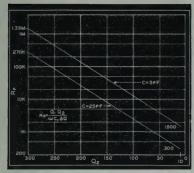


Figure 7. Rp versus Q2 and Cx

rear of the Type 280A (Figure 4) which is provided especially for monitoring the UHF Q Meter frequency. With this technique the accuracy of measurement is determined by the shortterm frequency stability of the Type 280-A and the stability of the halfpower indicator in its most insensitive position (position of maximum stability). In this mode of operation, 0.5 kc per minute per 100 megacycles can be resolved with good repeatability. For this method of dielectric measurements, it is convenient to derive the equations for Qx and Dx (dissipation factor) in terms of frequency. Considering the relationships of equations 7 and 8, equation 3 can be written:

$$Q_{x} = \begin{bmatrix} f_{r} & x & f_{r} \\ \frac{\Delta f_{1}}{f_{r}} & x & \frac{f_{r}}{\Delta f_{2}} \end{bmatrix} x \frac{C_{x}}{C_{1}}$$

$$Q_{x} = \frac{f_{r}^{2}}{\Delta f_{1}} x \frac{f_{r}}{\Delta f_{2}} x \frac{C_{x}}{C_{1}} x \frac{C_{x}}$$

Dielectric loss factor measurements in this range, were heretofore obtained by refined techniques and extreme skill. The Type 280-A \triangle f technique can achieve $\pm 10\%$ accuracy (or one part in the fifth place) with considerable simplification of the measurement pro-

cedure in this frequency range.

Measurement of Semiconductor Components and Materials

Since one of the key features of the new UHF Q Meter is high detector gain, low RF levels are available across the component to be tested. The level can be selected by the front panel SEN-SITIVITY control from 25 to 250 millivolts. Of the many components measurable in this RF voltage range, the variable-capacitor diode is one of the best examples. Here, one is most concerned with the behavior of Q and capacitance as a function of bias and frequency. With 0.025 volts RF across the diode, investigations to almost zero bias (0.1v dc) can be made. RF impedance of detector and mixer diodes can be determined using standard Q Meter equations 7. A suggested design for a diode jig, with provisions for biasing, is shown in Figure 1. Other parametric and nonlinear components, including hie, hoe, and hob of some UHF transistors, may be measured in a similar manner. Semiconductor material resistivity can be measured in the electrostatic manner previously described under "Measurements Involving Change in Capacitance and Resistance", or relative resistivity can be obtained using the inductive jig previously described under "Measurements Involving Change in Inductance and Resistance.'

External Resonator and "In Circuit" Measurements

One of the most interesting phases of the new UHF Q Meter application is the measurement of external resonators and "in circuit" measurements. Referring to Figure 2B and 4, observe that there is really no direct connection to

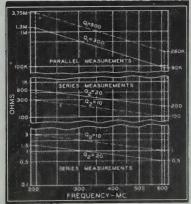


Figure 8. Approximate Resistance Range of the UHF Q Meter

the injection and detection circuits. The RF signal is actually magnetically coupled or induced into the Q capacitor by a piston-type inductive attenuator. This device is a tubular probe, with a single turn of wire at its end. The detector circuit is similar to a conventional diode probe used on many RF vacuum tube voltmeters and is coupled to the Q capacitor by merely bringing one end of it near the electrostatic field of the stator structure.

The fact that there is actually no conductive connection to the circuit under test suggests many possible configurations for making measurements. As shown in Figure 4, connections to the Q capacitor assembly have been made through a series of jacks and jumpers located at the rear of the instrument. This means that the oscillator and high-gain amplifiers may be disconnected from the Q capacitor.

External Resonators

First, let us assure that we have a coaxial resonator and need to know its Q and resonant frequency. Due to the physical size of the component, it can not be mounted on the Q capacitor terminals. Even if it could be mounted, the minimum capacitance of 4pf would prohibit uncorrected measurements. The Type 280-A, with appropriate accessories, can make these measurements on the bench rather than on the instrument. Figure 4 shows the connections for a typical resonator circuit. The piston attenuator and diode probes shown in Figures 1 and 4 will be made available as optional accessories for the Type 280-A.

The procedure for making this measurement is basically the same as for making conventional measurements, except that the "Level Set" controls (Q capacitor piston attenuator and Q capacitor controls) are no longer operative. The motion of the attenuator probe and adjustment of the dc potentiometer serve as the "Level Set" control once the detector probe has been positioned. The frequency or CIRCUIT Q dials are then tuned to obtain the resonant peak. The resonant frequency is read directly on the frequency dial, or by means of external frequency measuring equipment if desired. The Q measuring procedure is the same as described above for inductors.

Care must be taken to avoid unexpected loading of the resonator. Prevention of this loading is one function of the coupling block and is also the reason that an adjustment is provided on the attenuator probe. Two Q readings, at different detector probe and attenuator probe settings, will establish the extent of loading. If there is any loading, O2 will be different than Q1.

A plot of two or three Q readings as a function of coupling will show that Q approaches a limit, asymptotic to the Q value, at which the Type 280-A injection and detection circuit reflected losses are negligible. This Q value is the actual unloaded Q of the resonator under test.

In resonators of this type, Q is important as a method of determining bandwidth in receivers. The effects of circuit loading can be determined and

As a power handling device, Q is related to efficiency (E) as follows:

$$E = 100 (1 - \frac{Q_L}{Q_{UL}}) \%, (13)$$

where $Q_{\scriptscriptstyle\rm L}=Q$ loaded and $Q_{\scriptscriptstyle\rm UL}=Q$ unloaded

"In Circuit" Measurements

A distinct advantage of the UHF Q Meter is its ability to measure the Q of resonant circuits (resonators) as they are connected and mounted in actual use; i.e., "in-circuit" measurements. This is extremely important, since the behavior of most resonators is a function of many things. Resonators may take many forms; i.e., coaxial, cavity, open lines, strip lines, butterfly tanks, etc. An example of a typical "in-circuit" measurement problem is shown in Figure 1. Here, flat strips are used to form a resonator for a developmental RF amplifier. It is important to know the QL and QUL of the resonator to determine the optimum efficiency versus bandwidth compromise. Coupling was achieved as illustrated, and the following example readings were made at 400 Mc: $Q_{UL} = 400$, $Q_L = 40$, E = 100 (1 - 40/400) = 90%. It was found that due to radiation losses, QUL dropped to 300 with the shield removed, resulting in an efficiency of 100 (1-40/300) % = 84%. These efficiencies were adequate, but a different tube type and aluminum shields resulted in a Qua of 100. Efficiency was 60% under these conditions and, therefore, this may prove to be an unusuable config-

An extension of this type of measthe mail can be applied to mating com-1 man be used to determine

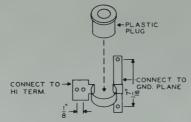


Figure 9. Suggested Design for an Induc-

Q at the self-resonant frequency of an inductor. The components are placed on a small ground plane in the vicinity of the probes, or in a convenient shield, to limit radiation losses and body capacitance effects. By this means, any tuning or fixed capacitor desired may be employed.

It is important to realize that measurements made in the manner described in this section yield Qe; i.e., the effective Q of the component and associated circuit inperceptably influenced by the Q Meter, if care is used to determine sufficient probe decoupling. This is the actual "in-circuit" Q and can be used directly in circuit computations. The Type 280-A UHF Q Meter is the only Q Meter in existance that can measure, directly, the Q of a circuit that is resonant at the frequency of measurement.

To measure circuit "stray" capacitance, a coil may be calibrated on the O capacitor and then soldered into the circuit at the desired points. The circuit capacitance can then be computed from the relationship for resonance:

$$f = \frac{1}{\omega \sqrt{LC}}$$
or
$$C = \frac{1}{f^2 \omega^2 L}$$
(14)

The same technique can be applied to circuit inductances.

CONCLUSION

We have attempted to describe some of the applications of the new UHF Q Meter Type 280-A, but realize that there will be many more jobs for this versatile instrument; some of which are not apparent at this writing. These will provide worthwhile subject matter for future articles in The Notebook.

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SERVICE NOTE **RX Meter Null Indicator**

Proper operation of the Type 250-A RX Meter is dependent upon the correct balancing of the bridge circuit, and the bridge circuit cannot be correctly balanced if the NULL INDICATOR is not functioning properly. To check the operation of the NULL INDICATOR, proceed as follows:

- 1. Select the desired measuring frequency by means of the OSC RANGE and OSC FREQ controls.
- 2. Set the C_p dial to "O" and the R_p dial to ∞ .
- 3. Unbalance the bridge by shorting the two binding posts and adjusting the DETECTOR TUNING knob until maximum deflection is obtained on the NULL INDICA-TOR. The meter pointer should indicate about 35 scale divisions. A peak of substantially less than this amount is usually an indication of an unusuable harmonic response instead of the desired fundamental. At higher frequencies, two fundamental frequency peaks will be observed, either of which represents satisfactory tuning of the detector. Several secondary or harmonic peaks, which may be recognized by their relative sharpness and low amplitude, will be observed between the fundamental peaks. Care should be taken not to tune to one of these harmonics, since this will produce erroneous readings or make bridge balance impossible. When maximum meter deflection has been obtained, remove the short from across the binding posts and tighten the binding posts nuts.
- 4. Balance the bridge by adjusting the three ZERO BALANCE controls, alternately, until a minimum deflection is obtained on the

NULL INDICATOR. The indication should not be more than 3 scale divisions on the meter. At frequencies above 100 Mc, the COARSE R control should be adjusted to its approximate midpoint position before null is sought. Since a slight interaction exists, at high frequencies, between the FINE R and C controls, it is important to use all three controls to obtain final balance. When an apparent null has been obtained, the circuit should be tested for true balance by slowly rocking the R_p dial above and below the setting, and observing the NULL INDICA-TOR. If a deeper null is observed

at some $R_{\rm p}$ value other than ∞ , the $R_{\rm p}$ dial should be returned to the latter indication and a new balance obtained with the ZERO BALANCE controls.

NOTE: When the measurement frequency is changed, steps 2 through 4 above should be repeated.

5. After the bridge is balanced as described above, set the frequency controls for 0.5 megacycles and change the R_p dial setting from ∞ to 100K. The NULL INDICATOR pointer should deflect upscale and indicate approximately 7 to 12 divisions.

A 10–500 Mc Signal Generator Power Amplifier

ROBERT POIRIER, Development Engineer

An increasing demand has developed for higher RF power output levels, in the 0 to 10 dbw maximum output range, over the frequency range from 10 to 500 Mc, for the testing of communications systems and for general laboratory measurements. The need for higher power output signal sources results mainly from strong signal and cross modulation requirements of certain receiver tests and the large input signal requirements of bridge type devices. Because of the large number of existing signal generators in the 0 dbm maximum output category, BRC has developed a tunable signal generator power amplifier for use with these instruments. The signal generator power amplifier is to be an accessory for use with any signal generator having a maximum output in the vicinity of 0 dbm to provide a maximum output level in the vicinity of 4 dbw.

The new Signal Generator Power Amplifier Type 230-A conceived by the Boonton Radio Corporation, consists essentially of three tracked tuned, cascaded stages of grounded-grid amplification. The choice of grounded-grid triode amplification was established primarily by a desire to provide a maximum operating frequency of 500 Mc. Two other advantages which are accrued for grounded-grid triode amplification as compared with grounded cathode tetrodes are: a low untuned input impedance which can be made nominally in the vicinity of 50 ohms, and a gain

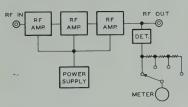


Figure 1. Block Diagram of Signal Generator Power Amplifier Type 230-A

and maximum power output which are less sensitive to variations in load impedance. A minimum of 34 db power gain is to be provided for a frequency coverage of 10-500 Mc which will be continuously tuned in six slightly overlapping ranges. The gain will be linear within 9.0% up to 10 volts output in a 50-ohm termination. This provides that a maximum of 91% AM of a 5-volt carrier level, with 10% distortion of the modulation envelope, will be obtained for a 100% modulated (with no envelope distortion) input signal for which the carrier level approaches 0.1 volt or -7 dbm. The changes in percentage of modulation and envelope distortion which may be developed in the Signal Generator Power Amplifier at the maximum output levels, become negligible for modulation crests of 0.5 watt (5.0 volts rms in 50 ohms) or less. The linearity characteristic of the Signal Generator Power Amplifier is such that, in general, if the outgoing modulation crests exceed 0.5 watt, the modulation index will always be less than the incoming modulation by an amount not exceeding 9.0% of the incoming modulation. Whether, and in which direction, the envelope distortion may be affected at the maximum output levels, depends on the magnitude and phase of the incoming envelope distortion components, if any. The effect should be within $\pm 10\%$ for modulation crests of 10 volts rms in 50 ohms, diminishing to 2% or less for modulation crests of 5 volts rms in 50 ohms or less. The absolute maximum power output over most of the frequency range is 4 watts or 6 dbw (14.14 volts rms in 50 ohms), but the linearity (and gain) is not specified beyond 2 watts or 3 dbw. The overall bandwidth of the threestage power amplifier is not less than 700 kc and is considerably greater over much of the frequency range.

A block diagram, Figure 1, shows that a self-contained power supply and an output RF voltmeter are included with the Signal Generator Power Amplifier. The RF output voltage is metered from 0-15 volts in four convenient ranges. The detector and the metering circuit will withstand the high voltages which can be developed at the RF output jack when it is unterminated, or terminated in a load having a very high VSWR. The accuracy of the RF output voltage indication is specified at the output jack to be \pm 1.0 db of full scale over a frequency range of 10 to 250 Mc and ±1.5 db from 250 Mc to 500 Mc for a 50-ohm termination having a VSWR of 1.0 (0 db) in each case.

An electronically-regulated power supply is incorporated in the Signal Generator Power Amplifier to maintain a constant final amplifier plate voltage against the large variations in final plate current which occur over the range of 0.5 to 4 watts RF output. Other features include 50 ohms input and output impedance with a VSWR of 2.0:1, or less, over the frequency range of 10-500 Mc. RF leakage is sufficiently low to permit measurements at 0.1 volt.

Since the demand for higher power signal generators comes almost exclusively from sources already supplied with low-power signal generators, it is felt that the Signal Generator Power Amplifier will conveniently and readily fulfill this demand, offering up to 2 watts output for AM applications, or or up to 4 watts output for CW and FM, where amplitude linearity is unimportant.

EDITOR'S NOTE New Look for BRC at IRE

The few weeks preceding the IRE show in March are pandemonium at BRC. Engineering and Sales are steeped in the problems of readying new instruments for showing and assuring that enough advance information is disseminated to stimulate customer interest. Many last-minute details are being attended to and the loose ends are being gathered and knotted .The last days before the show are tumultuous, but those in the midst of the turmoil are aware of the impact of the job they are doing, and in this there is solace.

This year, BRC will show its instrument line in a new display booth; designed not only to provide an attractive setting for instrument display, but to make it easier for BRC engineers in attendance to handle demonstrations and inquiries.



EACH YEAR, IN THE MONTH OF MARCH, A PHIGHLY COORDINATED EFFORT IS MADE

Of particular interest at the show will be the UHF Q Meter Type 280-A (the subject of the lead article in this issue), the Navigation Aid Test Set Type 235-A (described in Notebook Number 24), and the new Signal Generator Power Amplifier Type 230-A (described in this issue).

Another "guess the Q" contest will be featured for those friends of BRC who welcome the challenge of a perplexing problem. Our engineers have, true to form, devised a resonant circuit which will be on display at the BRC booth. Contestants will be asked to estimate the Q of the circuit, enter this estimate on a contest card, and drop the entry into a special, locked receptacle. After the show, the Q of the resonant circuit will be measured on the UHF Q Meter Type 280-A, by means of the "in circuit" technique. Several measurements will be made and averaged. The entry which is closest to this average measured Q will be awarded a factory-reconditioned Q Meter Type 160-A. In case of a tie, a drawing will be held to determine the

Plan to visit the IRE show at the Coliseum in New York City and stop at the BRC exhibit (Booths 3101 and 3102). Our engineering personnel on duty will be grateful for the opportunity to help you with your test equipment problems.

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BOONTON RADIO CORPORATION

HELPFUL KIT BUILDING INFORMATION

Before attempting actual kit construction read the construction manual through thoroughly to familiarize yourself with the general procedure. Note the relative location of pictorials and pictorial inserts in respect to the progress of the assembly procedure outlined. This information is offered primarily for the convenience of novice kit builders and will be of definite assistance to those lacking thorough

knowledge of good construction practices. Even the advanced electronics enthusiast may benefit by a brief review of this material before proceeding with kit construction. In the majority of cases, failure to observe basic instruction fundamentals is responsible for inability to obtain desired level of performance.

RECOMMENDED TOOLS

The successful construction of Heathkits does not require the use of specialized equipment and only basic tools are required. A good quality electric soldering iron is essential. The preferred size would be a 100 watt iron with a small tip. The use of long nose pliers and diagonal or side cutting pliers is recommended. A small screw driver will prove adequate and several additional assorted screw drivers will be helpful. Be sure to obtain a good supply of rosin core type radio solder. Never use separate fluxes, paste or acid solder in electronic work.

In the actual mechanical assembly of components to the chassis and panel, it is important that the procedure shown in the manual be carefully followed. Make sure that tube sockets are properly mounted in respect to keyway or pin numbering location. The same applies to transformer mountings so that the correct transformer color coded wires will be available at the proper chassis opening.

Make it a standard practice to use lock washers under all 6-32 and 8-32 nuts. The only exception being in the use of solder lugs—the necessary locking feature is already incorporated in the design of the solder lugs. A control lock washer should always be used between the control and the chassis to prevent undesirable rotation in the panel. To improve instrument appearance and to prevent possible panel marring use a control flat nickel washer under each control nut.

When installing binding posts that require the use of fiber insulating washers, it is good practice to slip the shoulder washer over the binding post mounting stud before installing the mounting stud in the panel hole provided. Next, install a flat fiber washer and a solder lug under the mounting nut. Be sure that the shoulder washer is properly centered in the panel to prevent possible shorting of the binding post.

WIRING

When following wiring procedure make the leads as short and direct as possible. In filament wiring requiring the use of a twisted pair of wires allow sufficient slack in the wiring that will permit the twisted pair to be pushed against the chassis as closely as possible thereby affording relative isolation from adjacent parts and wiring.

When removing insulation from the end of hookup wire, it is seldom

necessary to expose more than a quarter inch of the wire. Excessive insulation removal may cause a short circuit condition in respect to nearby wiring or terminals. In some instances, transformer leads of solid copper will have a brown baked enamel coating. After the transformer leads have been trimmed to a suitable length, it is necessary to scrape the enamel coating in order to expose the bright copper wire before making a terminal or soldered connection.

In mounting parts such as resistors or condensers, trim off all excess lead lengths so that the parts may be installed in a direct point-topoint manner. When necessary use spaghetti or insulated sleeving over exposed wires that might short to nearby wiring.

It is urgently recommended that the wiring dress and parts layout

as shown in the construction manual be faithfully followed. In every instance, the desirability of this arrangement was carefully determined through the construction of a series of laboratory models.

SOLDERING

Much of the performance of the kit instrument, particularly in respect to accuracy and stability, depends upon the degree of workmanship used in making soldered connections. Proper soldered connections are not at all difficult to make but it would be advisable to observe a few precautions. First of all before a connection is to be soldered, the connection itself should be clean and mechanically strong. Do not depend on solder alone to hold a connection together. The tip of the soldering iron should be bright, clean and free of excess solder. Use enough heat to thoroughly flow the solder smoothly into the joint. Avoid excessive use of solder and do not allow a flux flooding condition Avoid excessive use of sorder that do not another that to occur which could conceivably cause a leakage path between adjacent terminals on switch assemblies and tube sockets. This is particularly important in instruments such as the VTVM, oscilloscope and generator kits. Excessive heat will also burn or damage the insulating material used in the manufacture of switch assemblies. Be sure to use only good quality rosin core radio type solder.

Antenna General	Y	Resistor General	Neon Bulb — D	Receptacle two-conductor
Loop		Resistor Tapped —	Illuminating Lamp	Battery +
Ground	<u></u>	Resistor Variable	Switch Single pole Single throw	Fuse O\O
Inductor General	9	Potentiometer	Switch double pole single throw	Piezoelectric ————————————————————————————————————
Air core Transformer General	Les Constitutions	Thermistor	Switch Triple pole Double throw	1000 = K
Adjustable Powdered Iron Core		Jack two conductor	Switch Multipoint or Rotary	1,000,000 = M
Magnetic Core Variable Coupling	36	Jack three conductor	Speaker	онм =
Iron Core Transformer	316	Wires connected	Rectifier —	Microfarad = MF
Capacitor General		Wires Crossing but not connected	Microphone	Micro Microfarad = MMF
Capacitor Electrolytic	+- (-	A. Ammeter V. Voltmeter	Typical tube symbol Plate suppressor	Binding post Terminal strip
Capacitor Variable	#	G. Galvanometer MA. Milliammeter uA. Microammeter, etc.	Grid cathode filament	Wiring between like letters is

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Assembling and Using Your...

Heathkit

Q-METER

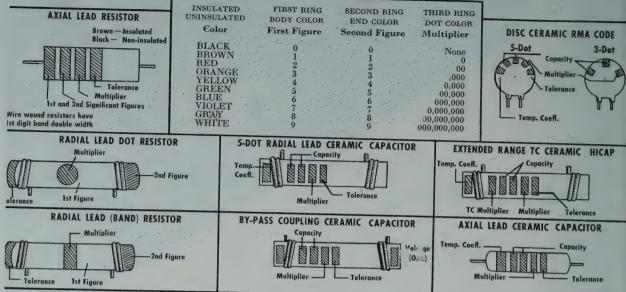
MODEL QM-1

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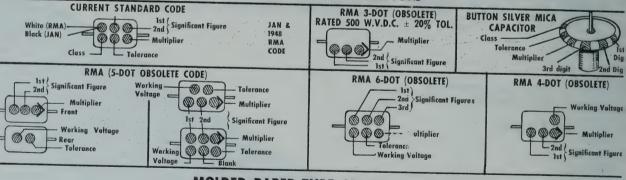
STANDARD COLOR CODE — RESISTORS AND CAPACITORS



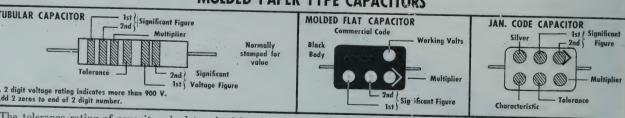
The standard color code provides all necessary information required to properly identify color coded resistors and capacitors. Refer to the color code for numerical values and the zeroes or multipliers assigned to the colors used. A fourth color band on resistors determines tolerance rating as follows: Gold = 5%, silver = 10%. Absence of the fourth band indicates a 20% tolerance rating.

The physical size of carbon resistors is determined by their wattage rating. Carbon resistors most commonly used in Heathkits are ½ watt. Higher wattage rated resistors when specified are progressively larger in physical size. Small wire wound resistors ½ watt. 1 or 2 watt may be color coded but the first band will be double width.

MOLDED MICA TYPE CAPACITORS

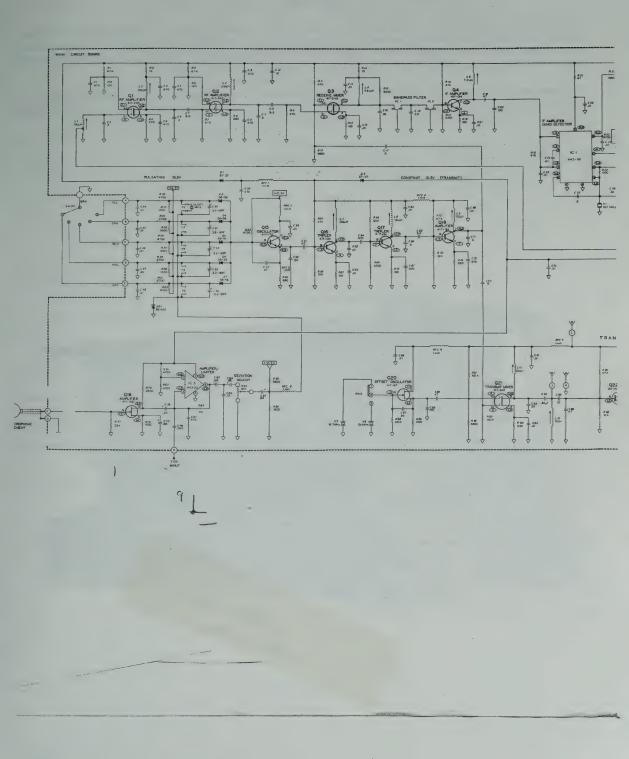


MOLDED PAPER TYPE CAPACITORS



The tolerance rating of capacitors is determined by the color code. For example: red = 2%, green = 5%, etc. The voltage rating of capacitors is obtained by multiplying the color value by 100. For example: $graphing or capacitors = 3 \times 100$ or 300 volts. Blue = $graphing or capacitors = 3 \times 100$ or 600 volts.

In the design of Heathkits, the temperature coefficient of ceramic or mica capacitors is not generally a critical factor and therefore Heathkit manuals avoid reference to temperature coefficient specifications.



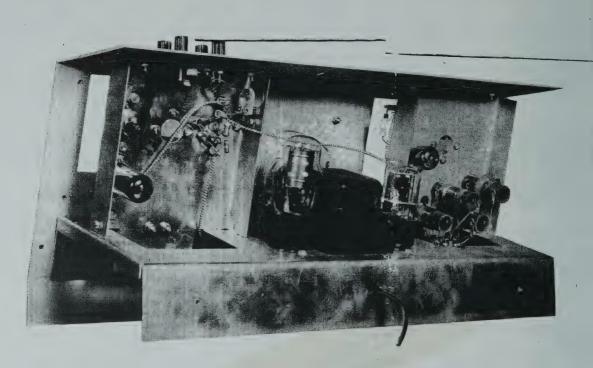
WARRANTY

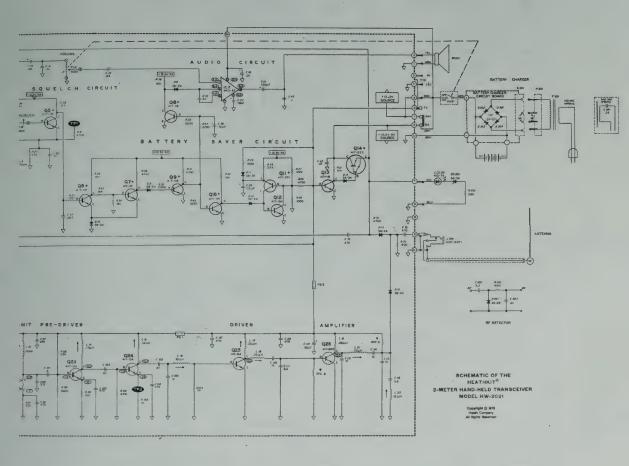
The Heath Company limits its warranty of any parts supplied with any Heathkit (except tubes, meters and rectifiers, where the original manufacturer's guarantee only applies) to the replacement within three (3) months of said part, which when returned with prior permission, postpaid, was, in the judgment of the Heath Company, defective at the time of sale.

The assembler is urged to follow the instructions exactly as provided. The Heath Company assumes no responsibility or liability for any damages or injuries sustained in the assembly of the device or in the operation of the completed instrument.

HEATH COMPANY Benton Harbor, Michigan





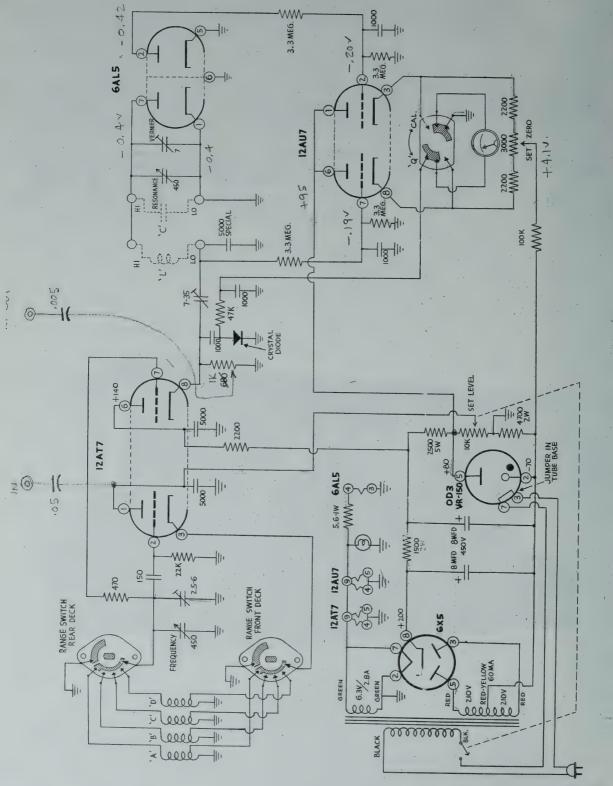




- 1. COMPONENT NUMBERS ARE IN THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:
 - 1-190 PARTS ON THE MAIN CIRCUIT BOARD. 201-299 PARTS IN THE CASE. 301-399 PARTS ON THE BATTERY CHARGER. 401-499 PARTS ON THE RF DITECTOR.
- ALL RESISTORS ARE 1/4-WATT. 5% TOLERANCE, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED RESISTOR VALUES ARE IN ONNS: K+1000, M+1,000,000
- CAPACITORS EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN . 1 ARE IN UF IMICROFARADS). ALL OTHER CAPACITORS ARE IN OF IPICOFARADS) UNLESS OTHERWISE MARKED.
- INDUCTORS ARE SHOWN IN MH (MILLIHENRIES) AND philicrohenries).
- THIS SYMBOL INDICATES A DC VOLTAGE MEASUREMENT TAKEN WITH A HIGH INPUT IMPEDANCE VOLTMETER FROM THE POINT INDICATED TO CHASSIS GROUND UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS.
- THIS SYMBOL INDICATES CHASSIS GROUND.
- O THIS SYMBOL INDICATES A SOLDERED CONNECTION TO THE MAIN CIRCUIT BOARD.
 - SEE TABLES 1 AND 2 FOR VOLTAGES.
- THIS SYMBOL DENOTES A CHOKE WOUND BY THE KIT BUILDER.
- REFER TO THE "CIRCUIT BOARD X-RAY VIEWS" FOR THE PHYSIC LOCATION OF PARTS

TP INDICATES TEST POINT.

INDICATES TEST POINT USED ONLY WHEN ALIGNMENT I



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